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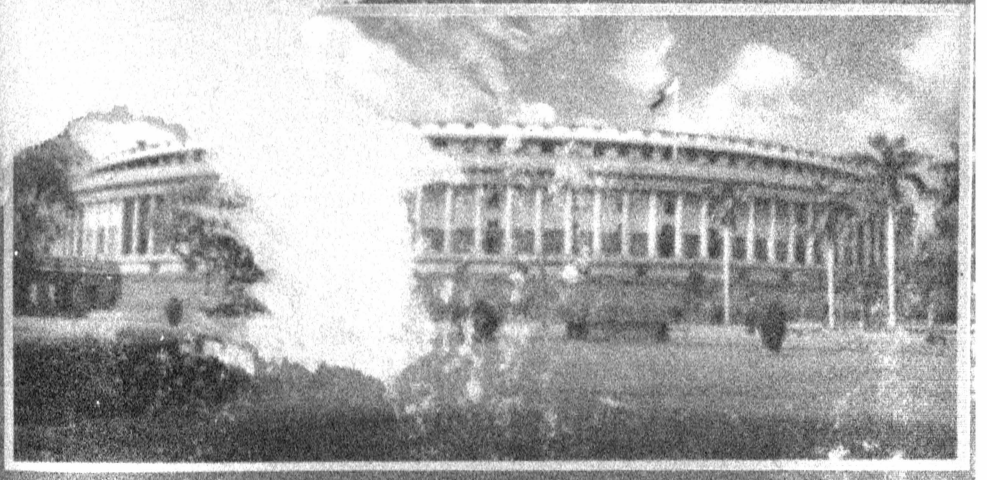
# The Journal of Parliamentary Information



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

# The Journal of Parliamentary Information

VOLUME XLVII NO. 1 MARCH 2001

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**
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# THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

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# EDITORIAL NOTE

As per the Constitution of India, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of article 86(1) and 87(1) of the Constitution. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues.

On 19 February 2001, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 2001. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Address by the President.

The Committee System in the Indian Parliament has grown in strength over the years. Taking a cue from the successful functioning of various Parliamentary Committees, particularly the three Financial Committees – the Public Accounts Committee, the Committee on Public Undertakings and the Estimates Committee – the Indian Legislatures have also constituted similar Committees in their respective States. With a view to facilitating sharing of experiences and exchange of views, Conferences of Chairman of these Committees from the Parliament and the State Legislatures are held from time to time.

After Independence, under the distinguished leadership of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the public sector was assigned a definite place in the scheme of economic development. The role of the public sector was expanded in various Plan periods in accordance with the social and economic objectives envisaged in the Plans. The Committee on Public Undertakings in Parliament and our State Legislatures has

acted as the eyes and ears to our representative bodies insofar as the Public Sector Undertakings are concerned.

The Third Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings (COPUs) of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 15-16 December 2000. The Conference provided an opportunity for interaction for the Chairmen of COPUs to exchange views on various problems facing the national economy in general and the public sector in particular. The Conference also deliberated on issues relating to the procedure of the COPUs as well as the functioning of Public Sector Undertakings and the regulatory role of the Government.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi on 15 December 2000. The Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament and Chairman of the Conference, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra also addressed the distinguished gathering at the inaugural function. We include the texts of the Addresses delivered on the occasion in this issue of the *Journal*. A Short Note titled 'The Third Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures', also included in this issue of the *Journal*, highlights the deliberations of the two-day Conference.

It was way back in 1921 that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was set up for the first time at the Central level in India. Through the decades, the PAC has become an important instrument of legislative surveillance over administration. The Ninth Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi from 17 to 18 January 2001. The Conference provided an opportunity for interaction for the PAC Chairmen on subjects of mutual interest and also to discuss and debate the various problems faced by the PACs in discharging their functions. The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi on 17 January 2001. The Chairman of PAC of Parliament and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari welcomed distinguished gathering to the function. We include the texts of their Addresses in this issue of the *Journal*. A Short Note titled 'The Ninth Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures', also included in this issue of the *Journal*, discusses the details of the two-day Conference.

Besides, we carry in this issue, our other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters,

Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

We would like to felicitate the people and members of the Legislative Assemblies of the three newly constituted States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. We would also like to convey our warmest congratulations to Sarvashri Inder Singh Namdhari, Rajendra Prasad Shukla and Prakash Pant on their elections as the first Speaker respectively of the Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal Legislative Assemblies. We also extend our hearty felicitations to Shri Lalthan Kunga on his election as the Deputy Speaker of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—G.C. Malhotra
*Editor*

# 1

# ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The Constitution of India provides for an Address by the President to either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together. The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. The President may address both Houses of Parliament assembled together or either House of Parliament separately as per provisions of articles 86(1) and 87(1) of the constitution. Under article 86(1), the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require attendance of members. Article 87(1) provides that at the commencement of the first session after each General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the Session to be held that year.

On 19 February 2001, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed the members of the two Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House at the commencement of the First Session of Parliament in 2001.

We reproduce below the texts of the Address.

*—Editor*

*Honourable Members,*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this First Session of Parliament in 2001. I extend to you my best wishes for the successful completion of the budgetary and legislative business ahead.

This Session of Parliament is being held under the grim shadow of the devastation caused by the earthquake that struck Gujarat last month. It claimed thousands of lives, destroyed public and private property worth thousands of crores, and left many people homeless. Today, we pay our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. We assure them and all others affected by the earthquake that they are not alone in this hour of loss and suffering. The entire nation has rallied behind and

demonstrated its sympathy and solidarity. The tragedy has evoked the response of Governments, NGOs, and multilateral agencies across the world to contribute generously to our national effort. My Government and the people of India express their deep gratitude to all of them.

The Union Government and the Government of Gujarat have been working closely in the relief and rehabilitation operations throughout the State. I compliment the *jawans* and officers of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy for their outstanding role in this effort. The Governments of all the other States have also come to the aid of Gujarat. Indeed, it is a tribute to the coordinated effort of all Central and State agencies that power, telecommunication, rail, air, and road links were restored with such remarkable speed. The commendable contribution of a wide range of voluntary organizations have greatly supplemented and strengthened these efforts. Thousands of volunteers have been working tirelessly to bring succour to the survivors. On behalf of this august House, I applaud them for their devoted and untiring activities. In times of crises, external or internal, our countrymen have always shown exemplary unity and voluntary activism. We should nurture these virtuous qualities, so that they influence all aspects of our national life at all times.

The catastrophe in Gujarat, as also the super cyclone in Orissa in 1999 and natural calamities in other parts of the country in recent years, have once again highlighted the urgent need to expand and modernize our disaster management capabilities. We need to urgently revise and update the rules and regulations governing construction and town planning. We also need to enforce them with rigour, and ensure that stern action is taken against their violators. Beyond this, we must have a comprehensive disaster management plan at the Centre, States, and districts with specific long-term and short-term objectives. It must be our common endeavour to ensure that life after a calamity is better than life before it.

I am happy that the Government convened an all-party meeting to discuss the Gujarat earthquake. Following up on the consensus at that meeting, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. It comprises *inter alia* representatives of national and state parties. It will suggest short, medium and long term steps for relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction activities in Gujarat. It will also deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with national calamities in the future. In addition, it will look into the parameters that should define a national calamity. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Government will consider setting

up a permanent National Disaster Management Authority, with suitable statutory authorities in States.

Throughout India's history, pilgrimages have played a unique role in tying our people together with the bonds of religious piety and national unity. The *Maha Kumbh* at Allahabad, which witnessed one of the largest gatherings of humanity in a spectacular act of faith, demonstrated this yet again. I compliment the Uttar Pradesh Government, the Railways, and all other governmental and non-governmental agencies for their coordinated efforts at smoothly managing this mega-congregation, which has impressed the whole world.

This year marks the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our Republic. As years go by, both 15 August 1947, and 26 January 1950, will recede more and more into history. They may seem distant, especially to the youth of India, who constitute nearly 37 percent of our population. However, time cannot weaken the import of these two defining dates in our country's long history. The sacred flame of freedom and democracy will continue to illuminate India's journey in the new century and the millennium. This Parliament, the highest elected body of the world's largest democracy, should resolve to contribute its utmost to the furtherance of the Republican values enshrined in our Constitution.

While all of us are proud of India's achievements since Independence, we are equally aware of the enormous challenges that still confront us. The cautionary words of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should guide us in our march forward. While presenting the draft of the Constitution, he had said with great fervency: "On 26 January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics, we will have equality; and in social and economic life, we will have inequality. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest." Unfortunately, the contradiction that Dr. Ambedkar and many other stalwarts of the Freedom Movement had warned us about, continues to mar our national life even today. Therefore, all of us should hold our freedom and our democracy to be incomplete until we erase this contradiction and make our great nation a land of justice and equal opportunity for all its billion plus citizens.

One of the major gains of democracy in India is the ever-growing active participation of women in the political process – not only as voters, but also as elected representatives and bearers of executive responsibility. At the same time, this positive experience has made both women and men acutely aware of the under-representation of our sisters in Parliament and State Legislatures. The Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999, which was a response to this all-round support

for women's political empowerment, has already been introduced in Parliament. It is unfortunate that this Bill has not yet been enacted. I urge all political parties to arrive at a consensus and pass this Bill during this Session. This would be a fitting tribute by India's Parliament to the "Year of Women's Empowerment", which we are observing this year.

Last fortnight, India launched its biggest-ever Census operation. Our population has now crossed one billion. Last year, we adopted a comprehensive National Population Policy. The Policy has three principal objectives – to reduce the rate of growth; stabilize the absolute size; and, providing welfare and developmental opportunities for the entire population, especially women. To realize these objectives, it is necessary to evolve, in concert with the States, a set of incentives and disincentives. These should be enforced in a non-coercive manner with the fullest cooperation of social, cultural, and religious institutions.

India's external and internal security is the highest priority for the Government. We are committed to further strengthening the country's strategic response capability to meet any eventuality. A Group of Ministers has examined the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee on the national security system, and will soon submit its proposals. The maiden flight of the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft took place successfully last month. The nation commends the dedicated work of our scientists and engineers for this aeronautical achievement, as also for their path-breaking accomplishments in missile development.

The Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. As part of this, it launched a major peace mission on 19 November 2000, by announcing a unilateral non-initiation of combat operations in the State during the holy month of *Ramzan*. This bold initiative was extended twice up to 26 February 2001. As anticipated, this was warmly welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are longing for an end to militancy and violence in their beautiful State. The international community has also given overwhelming support, because it sees in it yet another demonstration of India's sincere commitment to a peaceful and permanent solution to the Kashmir issue.

It is a matter of deep distress and concern to all of us that Pakistan has not reciprocated India's sincerity. There has been no let up in, much less an end to, cross-border terrorism and vicious anti-India propaganda, originating from Pakistani soil. Many innocent lives continue to be lost every day to acts of barbarism by those who cloak them in the garb of

"*Jehad*". Pakistan bears the responsibility for these acts against humanity, which are a travesty of religion. Its protestations about its eagerness to resume talks with India will not carry conviction so long as it allows the terrorists' guns and bombs to do the talking. Should Pakistan create an atmosphere conducive for meaningful talks, India will be more than ready to resume the dialogue process. The Army and our para-military forces are working under trying circumstances and the nation appreciates their supreme determination and sacrifice. Action against terrorist organizations will continue relentlessly.

Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is now increasingly confined to foreign mercenary groups. This has widened the scope for democratic activity in the State. The people of the State participated enthusiastically in the recent *Panchayat* elections. I reiterate the Government's readiness to have talks with every group in the State that abjures violence.

There is a relative improvement in the situation in the North-East. Peace and normalcy in this strategic region require both political stability and faster socio-economic development. This has to be combined with firm action against militant and extremist outfits. The special developmental package devised for the North-East is being speedily implemented. Substantial developmental resources flow into the region each year. However, their impact on the ground is not commensurate. I urge the State Governments to ensure that there is no mismanagement or leakage of public funds. For this, they should carry out effective decentralization, strengthen democratic institutions, and increase the participation of people's organizations. They must also protect the minorities in their respective States.

The Government is uncompromising in its commitment to secularism. The levels of communal and caste violence have continued to decline. This improvement is especially remarkable in view of the unceasing efforts from across the border to foment communal trouble in India. We have stepped up our vigil against communal and extremist organizations. The law will take its course unsparingly and impartially against those who seek to create trouble.

One of the momentous events to take place last year was the creation of three new States – namely, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, and Jharkhand, taking the number of States in the Union of India from 25 to 28. The creation of these new States has met the long-standing aspirations of their people. It will also hasten their socio-economic development. I join all of you in extending warm felicitations to these new States.

Centre-State relations continue to be harmonious. The Inter-State Council, and its Standing Committee, have been meeting regularly. This augurs well for our democracy and for our federal polity. The Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security in August helped in the evolution of a better understanding and greater coordination among States, and between the Centre and the States, in dealing with militancy, terrorism, and organized crime. The Central Assistance for modernization of State Police Forces has been increased from Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 1,000 crore a year for the next ten years based on matching contribution by the States.

The Eleventh Finance Commission has submitted its report, which has addressed the serious issue of the worsening fiscal health of State Governments. Among its recommendations is a monitorable fiscal reform programme to reduce their revenue deficits and bring about fiscal corrections in a phased manner. The Fiscal Responsibility Bill seeks to achieve the same positive objectives at the Centre.

The process of economic reforms in India is now a decade old. During this period, several Governments at the Centre and in the States, belonging to various parties and alliances, have carried this process forward. The agenda of reforms has, thus, been sustained by a growing national consensus. This consensus needs to be broadened and strengthened, guided always by the criteria of whether or not specific policy changes promote the interests of the country and the common man. The scope of the reform process itself needs to be widened so as to fortify self-reliance, create more employment opportunities, and to rapidly remove poverty. The past decade's experience has clearly shown that economic reforms can yield the desired results only if they are fully complemented by administrative, judicial, educational, and labour reforms. Each of these reforms is a part of an integral national endeavour that seeks to convert the immense potential of India into a renascent reality in the 21st century.

India is among the ten fastest growing economies in the world. Our economy has grown at impressive annual rates of between 6 and 7 per cent during the past three years – this, despite formidable challenges on the external front, as well as droughts, floods, and other natural calamities in several parts of the country. However, we need to set an ambitious target of 9 per cent annual growth for the next ten years to double our per capita income and halve poverty. Today's problems can be turned into opportunities for a big surge forward, if the Centre and State Governments, all political parties, and the people adopt "Faster and More Balanced Development" as the common *mantra* of the decade.

Agriculture continues to provide livelihood for most of our people. Our hard-working *kisans* deserve applause for the record foodgrains harvest of 209 million tonnes last year. Our buffer stock has crossed an all time high of 40 million tonnes. Today India has become the largest producer of milk, and the second largest producer of rice, wheat, fruits, and vegetables in the world. We are also the world's fifth largest producer of eggs and its sixth largest producer of fish. Accelerated and sustainable development of agriculture is a high priority for the Government. The first National Agriculture Policy was announced last year. It sets a growth rate of over four per cent a year, based on efficient harnessing of our soil, water, and bio-diversity resources. It also seeks to promote higher public and private investments in agriculture, irrigation, agro-processing, distribution, and marketing. Organic farming and bio-fertilizers will be especially encouraged. The National Storage Policy, announced last year, will facilitate private investment in building state-of-the-art silos for integrated bulk handling, storage, and transportation of foodgrains.

To protect our farmers against unfair global competition, import duties were increased on many agricultural commodities, including edible oils. The Government has begun phased de-control of sugar by reducing the proportion of levy sugar from 40 per cent to 15 per cent. During last year's Kharif Season, 65 lakh farmers were insured under the National Crop Insurance Scheme. So far, 105 lakh farmers have been given the Kisan Credit Card.

The policy of emphasizing higher farm production through subsidy on inputs rather than through building new capital assets in irrigation, power, and rural infrastructure, has considerably reduced public investments in agriculture. Besides inducing inefficient use of scarce resources, this has also degraded soil, water resources, canals, and roads. In turn, this has caused farm productivity and the *kisans'* profitability to stagnate. This vicious circle needs to be turned into a virtuous circle of greater efficiency and productivity, to benefit both the *kisans* and the consumers, especially the poorest among them.

Poor road connectivity is the biggest hurdle in faster rural development. The *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* seek to provide all-weather roads to over one lakh unconnected rural habitations with a population of more than 500 in the next seven years. For the first time, the Centre has made a provision of Rs. 2,500 crore a year for improving rural roads. This Centrally sponsored scheme would be effectively implemented with the fullest participation of State Governments and Panchayati Raj bodies.

Steps have been initiated to bring all watershed and area development programmes implemented by different Ministries under a single umbrella. Although considerable resources have been spent so far on drinking water schemes in rural areas, these have not yielded tangible and expected benefits, owing to a lack of clarity on ownership and poor planning and maintenance. Therefore, a new initiative has been introduced, initially on an experimental basis, in many districts, to institutionalize community participation in implementing, managing, and maintaining the rural drinking water supply schemes.

Keeping in view the consensus on better targeting of food subsidies, the Government has increased the monthly allocation of foodgrains to Below-Poverty-Line families from ten kilos to twenty kilos, at half the economic cost. The *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*, launched in December 2000, shows the human face of our economic reforms. It will provide 25 kilos of foodgrains each month to the one crore poorest families in the country, at still lower rates of two rupees a kilo for wheat and three rupees a kilo for rice. Because of Government's policies, the prices of most essential commodities have remained reasonable; no shortage of any commodity has been reported from any part of the country.

Expanding and modernizing India's physical infrastructure is urgently needed for faster and more balanced economic growth. We have made significant progress in some areas in recent years, although critical bottlenecks remain in several other areas. I am happy to inform you that the Government has resolutely pursued reforms in the telecom sector. Several important milestones indicated by the New Telecom Policy have already been crossed. The Department of Telecom Services has been corporatized into the *Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited*. The fruits of these reforms are now clearly visible. Tariffs have plunged, areas for local calls have been expanded, and there has been a remarkable growth and improvement in Internet services. The proposed Communication Convergence Bill will respond to the emerging scenario of the coming together of telecom, broadcasting, and IT technologies.

Information Technology has emerged as one of the fastest growing sectors in our economy. Our software exports, which were US$ 4 billion last year, are continuing to grow at an impressive annual rate of over 50 per cent, giving us the confidence that the target of US$ 50 billion by 2008 is certainly achievable. The Knowledge Economy presents India with an epochal opportunity to remove poverty and create prosperity for all our citizens, provided we quickly harness our rich human capital by improving education at all levels. The Government has drawn up a programme to double the intake of students in IITs and other

premier engineering institutions in 2002 and treble it in 2003. A scheme to allow establishment of world-class science and technology institutions through philanthropic initiatives of the private sector and NRIs is under consideration. A National Mission on Technology Education, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Human Resource Development, will soon be set up. All these efforts will hasten the pace of development of trained manpower for realizing our full potential in IT, biotechnology, and other hi-tech areas.

Direct-to-Home services with suitable safeguards have been permitted, so that benefits of this superior technology are available to our television viewers. Doordarshan's contribution to developmental broadcasting and its role in promoting national solidarity are well known. It has launched a *Kashir* Channel devoted to Jammu and Kashmir and a dedicated 24-hour satellite North-East Channel to strengthen the bonds of emotional and cultural integration between our brethren in these States and the rest of the country. Private FM radio services will soon be available in several cities. One channel in each of these cities has been exclusively assigned to promote distance education.

Integral development of the transportation infrastructure, with a well coordinated multi-model approach, is a vital need of our economy. Work on the National Highway Development Project, comprising the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West corridors, is proceeding at a fast pace. Considerable non-budgetary resources, including multi-lateral funding, are being mobilized for this ambitious project, which is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crore. A number of policy changes have been effected by the Centre and the States to attract private and captive user sector investment for augmenting the capacities of our ports. A new major port at Ennore was dedicated to the nation early this month. Being the first corporate port in India, it will be a trend-setter for future port development in the country.

Although Indian Railways are a lifeline of the nation, they have suffered from long years of neglect. Their finances are in a critical state, rendering them unable to implement many long-pending developmental projects. They are also starved of resources to fund the much-needed programme to improve rail safety, which is estimated to need Rs. 15,000 crore. There is a great untapped potential for the Railways to raise internal resources through non-traditional means. They have recently started many innovative initiatives with the private sector and State Governments to implement new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects. An Expert Committee on Railways has just completed a comprehensive study of the operations, organization, finances, investment,

The President, Shri K.R. Narayanan arriving in procession to address Members of Parliament on 19th February, 2001

tariffs, and other policy issues. The Government will review the recommendations of this Committee and initiate necessary action expeditiously.

The Public Sector has played a vital role in the development of our economy. However, the nature of this role cannot remain frozen to what it was conceived fifty years ago – a time when the technological landscape, and the national and international economic environment were so very different. The Private Sector in India has come of age, contributing substantially to our nation-building process. Therefore, both the Public Sector and the Private Sector need to be viewed as mutually complementary parts of the national sector. The Private Sector must assume greater public responsibilities, just as the Public Sector needs to focus more on achieving results in a highly competitive market. While some public enterprises are making profits, quite a few have accumulated huge losses. With public finances under intense pressure, government are just not able to sustain them much longer. Accordingly, the Centre as well as several State Governments are compelled to embark on a programme of disinvestment.

The Government's approach to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has a three-fold objective: revival of potentially viable enterprises; closing down of those Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) that cannot be revived; and bringing down Government equity in non-strategic PSUs to 26 per cent or lower. Interests of workers will be fully protected through attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and other measures. This Programme has already achieved some initial successes. The Government has decided to disinvest a substantial part of its equity in enterprises such as Indian Airlines, Air India, Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Indian Petro-Chemical Corporation Ltd. (IPCL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), Computers Maintenance Corporation (CMC), Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO), Hindustan Zinc, and Maruti Udyog. Where necessary, strategic partners would be selected through a transparent process.

Reforms in the power sector are crucial for achieving the ambitious growth targets of the economy. To remove the chronic shortages in most parts of the country, and to make power affordable to all, we have set a target of installing an additional capacity of 100,000 megawatts by 2012, along with the associated transmission and distribution systems. This will require an investment of around Rs. 800,000 crore. The Electricity Regulatory Commissions, both at the Centre and in the States, will have to play a pivotal role in rationalization of tariffs, restoration of the financial health of State Electricity Board (SEBs), and creation of

confidence in private investors. I urge the State Governments, all the political parties, as well as employees of power utilities and consumers, to support the reforms in the Power Sector. The transition may be difficult initially, but will ultimately be rewarding for all.

Three nuclear power reactors were connected to the National Grid during this year. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India created a world record with only fourteen days between criticality and synchronization of the fourth unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station. The world is now looking at renewable energy as a viable and clean option to bridge the energy gap and to contain the problem of environmental degradation. Our goal is to add 10,000 megawatts from renewables over the next twelve years, increasing their share in the additional capacity installed to ten per cent.

The "India Hydrocarbon Vision 2025" Report has been finalized to chart out a long-term policy for the petroleum and natural gas sector. The steep rise in crude oil prices in the last eighteen months have increased our oil import bill to nearly Rs. 80,000 crore this year. Therefore, the Government is taking specific steps to further raise indigenous crude oil production. We have awarded 25 blocks for exploration during this year; we expect to award another 25 by September. We have also acquired oil equity abroad by buying twenty per cent in the Sakhalin-I oil field in Russia. Efforts for similar acquisition of oil equity overseas are under way. We have discovered oil and gas in the deep sea of the Krishna – Godavari basin and in the shallow waters of the Cambay region. India has this year achieved complete self-sufficiency in refining of crude oil. I am happy to inform you that last year, oil marketing companies have released about 12 million Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections against the target of 10 million. The waiting list for LPG connections has ended and they are now available across the counter. Large-scale efforts are being made to provide LPG connection to our rural population.

The Government is following a twin strategy to achieve growth in the coal sector. We will allow participation of the Private Sector in coal mining. We shall also strengthen Coal India by facilitating joint ventures. The issue of safety in coal mines has been once again sharply highlighted by the recent tragedy in Bagdigi near Dhanbad. The imperative of safety is closely linked to the modernization of the coal sector, with the introduction of the latest mining technology and management techniques. It brooks no delay. A comprehensive re-survey of all coal mines vulnerable to mishaps has been ordered.

Textiles is a traditional industry in which India enjoyed a global advantage for a long time. However, this edge has been blunted because this sector was not enabled to restructure itself to respond to the growing competition in the global market. To end this neglect and to achieve accelerated development of this sector a new Textile Policy has been unveiled. It aims to promote a state-of-the-art textile manufacturing capability in our country to meet domestic demand and to enhance textile and apparel exports from the present level of US$ 13 billion to US$ 50 billion by 2010. In addition to the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme and the Technology Mission on Cotton, separate schemes like the *Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana* have also been launched to cater to the needs of weavers, farmers, and artisans.

India enjoys a significant competitive advantage in chemicals and pharmaceuticals. To encourage R&D and investment in this sector, it is proposed to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit through the automatic route from the present 74 per cent to 100 per cent. A new Drug Policy is being finalized to enable India's pharmaceutical industry to become a world leader.

India has a huge untapped potential in tourism, which is the fastest growing industry in the world. The Government has strengthened, in coordination with the States, its efforts to improve the infrastructure and market both traditional and non-traditional destinations to domestic and international tourists.

After years of sluggish growth, our exports have been rising rapidly. They grew by 20.4 per cent in dollar terms between April and December, against the target of 18 per cent for the entire year. The Foreign currency assets on 2 February stood at a comfortable level of US$ 38.5 billion. Our liberalization of the trade policy continues to focus on procedural simplification to improve competitiveness of the Indian economy. While removing most Quantitative Restrictions in April, as per our World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitment, we will see that the transition will not be painful to Indian agriculture and industry, especially to the Small Scale Sector. The existing Export Promotion Zones at Mumbai, Kandla, Surat, and Kochi have been converted into Special Economic Zones. New such zones will also be set up at nine other places.

The Small Scale Sector contributes more than 38 per cent of the industrial production and 35 per cent of direct exports. We have put in place a Comprehensive Policy Package for the Small Scale and Tiny Sector. A scheme to restructure and modernize the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is also on the anvil. A common brand

name known as *"Sarvodaya"* has been launched to effectively promote KVIC products in the domestic and international markets.

In view of the daunting challenges that India faces in a highly competitive global market, there is growing recognition that amendments to some of our labour laws cannot be delayed any more. These amendments are indeed pro-labour, because they will facilitate greater employment opportunities in both the organized and unorganized sectors. They will do so by removing the hurdles to faster economic development by giving businesses the opportunity to make investments both in new units as well as to expand existing ones. For example, India can command a significant competitive advantage in the international market in the labour-intensive industries like garments, light engineering, toys, handicrafts, leather, and in IT-enable services. The Government will encourage large-scale investment in such industries and create necessary infrastructure for their rapid growth.

In implementing these much-needed labour reforms, the Government pledges not to dilute its commitment to workers' welfare in any way. Programmes for training and retraining of workers to adapt to new technologies will be expanded. Facilities for their entrepreneurial development and self-employment will be augmented. Many steps have already been taken to expand the coverage, and liberalize the benefits, of social security schemes for workers. For the benefit of poor families and the unorganized working class in rural and urban areas, the *Janashree Bima Yojana* was launched in June 2000. The Ministry of Labour is working on a comprehensive social welfare scheme for agricultural workers who constitute the largest segment of the work force in the country. We propose to cover all child labour endemic States with projects for rehabilitation through education, with emphasis on girls.

Education, especially education of girls, is the most rewarding investment we can make in India's future. An integrated National Education Programme, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,* has been launched for universalizing elementary education. For this, a National Mission has been constituted with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. It aims to provide eight years of quality elementary education to all children up to the age of fourteen by 2010, by making local communities own and manage the programme. It will especially focus on girls and disadvantaged groups through alternative modes of education. The Government will step up efforts for vocationalisation of education and enable the youth to start their own enterprises as well as new self-employment ventures.

Faster socio-economic progress of all the weaker sections of our society is a fundamental commitment of my Government. We are taking

many steps to make the finance and development corporations for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, *safai karamcharis,* and Minorities more effective. More facilities will be created to provide assistance for income generation ventures, self-employment activities, and enhancement of skills and talents. The coverage of micro-credit to Self Help Groups, especially those managed by women, is being expanded for the economic advancement of the poor in rural and urban areas. The Government is determined to check atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The wealth of a nation lies chiefly in the health of its citizens. A new Health Policy will soon be unveiled, which will draw upon on the positive as well as negative lessons of the past efforts to achieve the unmet goal of "Health For All". One of these useful lessons has been the highly successful Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign, which ended last month. The Government will soon launch similar national campaigns, with the widest possible mobilization of official and non-governmental resources, to deal with other major challenges in public health such as malaria, kala azar, and the epidemic spread of HIV/AIDS. We have made considerable progress in eliminating leprosy. The coverage under the Revised Directly Observed Treatment Short Course Strategy for Tuberculosis has risen to over 300 million from 20 million two years ago. It has saved nearly seventy thousand lives since its inception. I commend the Government for its bold step to initiate a legislation to ban all forms of tobacco advertising and sponsorship, along with other measures to prevent minors from getting addicted to nicotine. We have set in motion medical research based on the Human Genome to make India a front-runner in this highly promising new area of modern science.

Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, and Naturopathy offer a wide range of preventive, promotive, and curative treatments that are both cost-effective and efficacious. We are working to end the long neglect of these holistic systems in our national healthcare strategy. A National Medicinal Plant Board has been set up to promote cultivation, processing, production, and standardization of herbal products, both for domestic and export markets. Steps are also being taken to protect our traditional knowledge in this area, which promises to attract immense global attention in the coming years.

Deteriorating quality of life in our urban areas is a mater of deep concern. We need to promote environmentally sustainable, economically efficient, socially equitable, culturally vibrant, and regionally balanced urban development. The Government will foster such policies with the cooperation of State and local self governments. The programme to

facilitate construction of 20 lakh additional housing units each year in urban and rural areas, with the assistance of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), is progressing satisfactorily. The *Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana* and the National Slum Development Programme are expected to significantly contribute to the alleviation of urban poverty and provision of shelter to the poor.

Recurring droughts, floods, falling ground water table, and shortages of drinking water in rural and urban areas have forcefully reminded us that we will face graver crises in the future unless we begin prudent management of our water resources today. Since the adoption of the National Water Policy in 1987, many problems have emerged in the development and management of our water resources. Therefore, a revised Draft Water Policy was framed, which was discussed in the fourth meeting of the National Water Resources Council in July last year. To sort out the differences that emerged, a Working Group of Ministers has been constituted. The Government will soon launch a national campaign for water conservation, with the active participation of various user groups. I am happy to inform you that the Forest Survey of India Report for 1999 has indicated that our forest cover increased by 3,896 square kilometers since the previous assessment in 1997.

India continues to make rapid strides in space science. The first test of an indigenously developed cryogenic engine last year was an important milestone in the development of our geo-stationary satellite launch capability. Our latest Satellite INSAT-3B will initiate the *Swarn Jayanti Vidya Vikas Antariksh Upagraha Yojana,* aimed at providing developmental education in rural areas. Two Jai Vigyan National Science and Technology Missions were launched – one on conservation of agro-biodiversity and the other on household food and nutrition security.

The Department of Justice is in the process of reviewing various procedural and substantive laws to reduce delays in litigation. Two specific schemes have been initiated for this purpose. The first involves setting up of 1,734 Fast Track Courts for expediting the disposal of long pending cases. The second is a pilot project for computerization and networking of courts in the four metros. This will serve as a model for district and subordinate courts.

The Government is taking significant steps to reinvigorate the creative spirit of India's culture by building bridges between the present and the past. We have launched an innovative initiative to facilitate the equal partnership of the public and private institutions to manage our rich and diverse cultural heritage through the National Culture Fund. We have also stepped up our efforts to promote cultural and sporting ties

with other countries. India will host the first ever Afro-Asian Games in November.

India's foreign policy, resting on a strong foundation of continuity and national consensus, has responded creatively to the changing global scenario. The international community is beginning to recognize that a resurgent India —peace-loving, prosperous, and strong—is a reliable factor for peace, stability, and balance in Asia and in the world. The principal thrust of our foreign policy is to promote an external network of peaceful and friendly relations, which would enable us to focus on our internal task of nation-building. Central to this objective is our consistent pursuit of friendly relations with all our neighbours. Indeed, our ties with all of them, barring Pakistan, have continued to grow both in substance and in scope.

India and Nepal share an intimate relationship characterized by wide-ranging interaction in all spheres. Prime Minister, G.P. Koirala visited India last July, when our countries comprehensively reviewed our bilateral relations to further strengthen them. This process will continue in the future despite efforts by vested interests in recent times to hinder it. We have a strong interest in the progress of Bhutan and Maldives and our relations of mutual respect and trust enhance this objective. India hopes that peace will soon return to the troubled land of Afghanistan, so that its people could shape their own destiny free from external interference and religious extremism.

Improvement of infrastructural links has also been a focus of bilateral cooperation with our neighbours. A third broad gauge rail link with Bangladesh has just been restored, further promoting our close cooperation and people-to-people relations. The operationalization of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement is expected to significantly increase economic linkages between our two countries. We look forward to welcoming President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in Delhi later this week, and to review with her the whole range of our excellent bilateral relations. The new road link with Mayanmar, built with Indian assistance, would ease travel and facilitate trade between our two countries.

My visit to China last year, and the recent visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, have further developed our bilateral relations. We are committed to friendly and good-neighbourly ties with China based on *Panchsheel* and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns.

India's "Look East" policy saw the Prime Minister, make successful visits to Vietnam and Indonesia last month. I paid a State visit to

Singapore in November 2000. India's historical links with Indo-China and South-East Asia are deep and strong. There is immense scope for increasing economic and people-to-people relations with the countries of this region, which forms our extended neighbourhood. In this endeavour, the establishment of the Mekong-Ganga Co-operation initiative is an important milestone. During the landmark visit of Japan's Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, in August last year we agreed to build a Global Partnership in the 21st Century. We are looking forward to the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Kim Dae-jung, to India later this year.

We share deep-rooted historical and cultural bonds with the Central Asian countries and attach great importance to further developing our relations with them. Our civilizational contacts with West Asia and the Gulf go back several millennia, and we value our relations with all the countries in this region. We have expressed our deep concern at the stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process, the excessive use of force, and the recent violence. We believe that all States in the region, including Palestine and Israel, have a right to exist within secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

Our time-tested friendship with Russia attained a high point during the October visit of President Vladimir Putin, when we signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership, charting out a detailed road map for stronger Indo-Russian ties in the new century.

The steadily growing strength of India's interaction with the United States of America forms an important new dimension of our external relations. President Clinton's visit to India, and the Prime Minister's visit to the US last year, laid a firm foundation for this new phase in our relationship. I compliment the Indian IT professionals in the Silicon Valley and, indeed, the entire Indian-American community, for their shining successes. They have changed the American perception—in fact, the world's perception of India. We continue to engage with the Administration of President George W. Bush to foster a stronger and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

The first-ever India-European Summit in Lisbon, during the Prime Minister's visit to Portugal in June last year marked a qualitatively higher level in India's strategic partnership with the European Union (EU). It formulated an agenda to intensify our political, economic, and commercial exchanges. We are confident that our warm relations with UK, France, Germany, Italy and other European countries will continue to acquire new dimensions. India is further consolidating her historical links with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. High-level exchanges are planned with many of them.

Our relations with African countries are marked by warm friendship and a shared concern for the interests of the developing world. The Indian Ocean Rim offers great potential for closer co-operation with Southern and Eastern Africa. The recent visit to India of Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth underscored our intimate friendship with Mauritius. I am looking forward to visiting Mauritius on the occasion of their National Day celebrations. The President of Algeria, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, was the Chief Guest at this year's Republic Day Parade. The visit of the President Nigeria, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, has further consolidated our ties with this important African country. We are looking forward to the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco later this month.

We will continue to strive for closer relations with the countries of Latin America, and to expand our traditionally warm ties with the Caribbean countries and other members of the Commonwealth. The suppression of democracy in the multi-ethnic society of Fiji continues to cause us grave concern. India will work closely with the international community for the peaceful restoration of a non-discriminatory democratic order in Fiji.

The international community agreed at the UN Millennium Summit that the globalization process should be inclusive and equitable. It condemned international terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, trafficking in illicit arms and drugs, religious fanaticism, and military adventurism. India's call for an early international conference against terrorism was endorsed. An increasing number of countries have joined the demand for making the United Nations Security Council to be more representative and responsive. India's candidature for the permanent membership of an expanded Security Council is also finding increasing support. We reiterate our call for global comprehensive and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament. At the same time, our security imperatives compel us to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent until this objective is achieved.

My Government has taken major initiatives to strengthen our multi-faceted bonds with the Indian Diaspora. They are twenty million strong, spread all over the world, and have maintained close cultural, economic, and spiritual links with their Motherland, even while integrating harmoniously into their host societies. A high-level Committee has been appointed to make policy recommendations to encourage their participation in India's socio-economic transformation.

Honourable Members, you begin the Budget Session today. Apart from the financial business relating to the Railway and General Budgets,

there is a heavy legislative agenda awaiting completion in this Session. Two Ordinances also need to be replaced with Bills. All this work is intrinsically linked to our country's all-round and rapid socio-economic development. The people who have elected you have a high expectation that the precious time of Parliament is best used for the completion of the scheduled business.

I wish you success in your endeavours.

*Jai Hind*

# ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES

The Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 15-16 December 2000. The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 15 December 2000. The Welcome Address was delivered by the Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings and Chairman of the Conference, Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

*—Editor*

## WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, PROFESSOR VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

*Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Honourable Chairman of Committees on Public Undertakings of State Legislatures; Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Shri V.K. Shunglu; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra; and Friends:*

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to extend a hearty welcome to the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi to this inaugural function. Sir, we are grateful to you for sparing some time out of your busy schedule to inaugurate this conference. Sir, on this occasion, we look forward to you for inspiration and guidance.

I am also very happy to extend a hearty welcome to you all, my fellow Chairmen from all the State Legislatures and members of the Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament. It is the third time that the Chairpersons of the Committees on Public Undertakings are meeting in Conference. The first such Conference was held in March 1975 and the second one was held in April 1982. I feel we should meet frequently to share our views and experiences gained during the functioning of our respective Committees.

Friends, the Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament is the youngest of the three Financial Committees. The Committee was set up in 1964 to examine various aspects of the functioning of the Central Public Undertakings. Since then, the Committee has functioned as an effective arm of Parliament to ensure accountability of Public Undertakings. It has presented in all 506 reports till date. I am happy to say that the Committee has not only pointed out the deficiencies in the working of various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) but has also suggested remedial measures in many vital areas where there is scope for further improvement. Our examination of PSUs has not only been confined to the financial performance of the undertakings, but it also touches a wide range of other important aspects like project implementation, lapses of management, cost of production, value addition, manpower planning, etc. All these factors have to be looked into to ensure the better health of an undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee has proved itself as the eyes and the ears of Parliament as far as the performance of the Public Undertakings is concerned. It is a matter of great satisfaction that most of the recommendations of the Committee are accepted by the Government. It is our experience that about 62 percent recommendations made by the Committee during the Twelfth Lok Sabha were accepted. We reiterated the remaining recommendations and followed up the same with the Government.

Friends, I am happy to inform you that recently we have decided to lay our study tour reports on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament. This is a new practice as far as this Committee is concerned. We felt that there was a need to bring out those deficiencies before the Parliament which had come to our notice during our study visits to various places. I am sure this practice would enable the Committee to perform its role in a more effective manner.

I can say with satisfaction that this Committee has been successful in its primary task of ensuring better surveillance of the activities of public enterprises by the Parliament. The Committee provides a forum where the Legislatures, senior civil servants and important functionaries of Public Enterprises meet and exchange their views and experiences on the functioning of various PSUs.

We are passing through the age of economic globalisation. We are committed to bring about economic reforms in our country to have a faster economic growth. The Public Sector Enterprises have to function in a more efficient and effective manner to become commercially viable and to compete with the private sector in this new economic scenario.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressing the Conference

The Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings and Chairman of the Conference, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra addressing the Conference. Also seen in the picture are: the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed and Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra

Therefore, there is a greater need today than ever before to improve the working of our Public Enterprises. We all have to keep this in mind while performing our duties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have set a very ambitious agenda for our deliberations during the Conference. It touches almost every aspect of the working of the Committee. I am hopeful that the deliberations here would be found useful by my fellow Chairmen. We will equally gain from their experiences.

I once again thank you. Sir, on behalf of all of us for finding time to be with us. I would also like to thank all those who have come here to participate in the Conference.

May I now request you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to inaugurate the Conference.

Thank you.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

*Honourable Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings of Parliament, Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotraji; Honourable Chairpersons of the Committees on Public Undertakings of the State Legislatures; Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Shri Shunglu; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri Malhotra and Friends:*

I deem it a privilege and pleasant duty to be here with you this morning on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and of the State Legislatures. The Committee on Public Undertakings has always been regarded as one of the most important and influential Committees in our parliamentary system. It is primarily owing to this fact that, ever since its introduction into our parliamentary system in 1964, this Committee has always been headed by leaders of stature and proven administrative calibre. Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra, undoubtedly, is one such eminent leader and distinguished parliamentarian heading this Committee today. I am happy that in the case of our State Legislatures also, the position is not any different.

Friends, a well-defined Committee System is at the core of developed democratic societies everywhere, so much so that many modern governments have come to be known as governments by Committees today. In our system of government also, the parliamentary committees play a very significant role. The elaborate Committee System that we have in our Legislatures today has been created out of the

acknowledgment of this special role such Committees could play in a large democracy like ours.

In the context of the particular developmental path that we had adopted in the wake of freedom, it was perceived that for the State to be able to play an active role in improving the living standards of the people, it was necessary for the government to involve itself directly in economic activities and in the productive processes as well. This was sought to be achieved by adopting a mixed economic system in which the State-owned and managed undertakings were to play a crucial role. These undertakings, which by their very nature of ownership came to be known as the Public Sector Undertakings, were expected to ensure better stability, better accountability, better transparency and better productivity in the economy. Within our parliamentary democratic framework, the Committee on Public Undertakings was the mechanism devised to ensure accountability and transparency in the functioning of our public sector enterprises.

Today, we are living in a different economic environment, both at the national and the international levels. The focus everywhere is now on private initiative. Governments are disengaging themselves from direct industrial and commercial activities. Government's role in any industrial Undertaking is increasingly being reduced to that of providing the general policy direction and guidance. Even in the case of those Undertakings which are still fully under the control of the Government, growing emphasis is being laid on their becoming more accountable and competitive in order to justify their existence as economically viable enterprises. In today's globalised economic environment, the concepts of competitiveness and viability are very crucial.

Friends, today, it is important for us to draw a distinction between economic activities and welfare measures. An economic activity can be justified only when it generates resources. It is resources so generated that will have to go into the welfare measures. Otherwise, it will be distribution not backed by production which will be unsustainable and in the long run would only mean distribution of indigence. This entails a more responsible role for our Public Sector Undertakings and I would say, may be indirectly, a more proactive role for our Legislatures' Committees on Public Undertakings.

The performance record of the Committee on Public Undertakings at the national level over its less than four decades of existence speaks volumes about its role and effectiveness in our parliamentary system. The basic objective of this Committee is to ensure the accountability of the public undertakings to the Legislature and through it to the people

at large. Overseeing the functioning of more than 200 Public Sector Undertakings is not an easy task. Yet, this Committee has been doing a commendable job all these years. Over the thirty six years of its existence, the Committee has produced more than 500 reports. These reports have contributed substantially towards the effective management of our various public sector companies.

The Conference here today, provides us with an opportunity to share the experiences of all those associated with the working of these Committees across the country. The long list of subjects you have chosen for detailed deliberations in this Conference covers almost everything that comes within the purview of this Committee. This sharing of experiences will definitely help in enhancing the effectiveness of the Committee as an instrument to ensure the accountability of the Government, and of the individual enterprises to the Legislature.

I think it will not be out of place if I suggest that the COPUs can, perhaps, include in their long list of subjects a study to see how it is that some of our Public Sector Undertakings have failed in being competitive and economically viable. We have a lot to learn from history and from our own experiences of the past. As you all are aware, what failed many well-meaning and well-intended systems of government was the gap between the objective and the performance. The most important input that goes into the successful functioning of any organisation or enterprise is the commitment of its workforce and the management. The political leadership cannot afford to involve itself in their day-to-day management. However well-defined our intentions may be, if they are not matched by commitment, we cannot produce the desired result.

Friends, in this context I would also like to draw your attention to a correspondence, I have received from the Comptroller and Auditor-General (C&AG) of India which contains some proposals for making the functioning of the Committees of Public Undertakings of the States more effective.

The C&AG has drawn my attention, and through me would like to draw the attention of all of you, to the increasing pendency of discussion on paragraphs included in the State Audit Reports with the Committees on Public Undertakings of some of our States. Added to this is the inadequate response of the State Governments in submitting the Action Taken Notes on the paragraphs of the Audit Reports discussed by the State COPUs. Both these go against the basic principle of the accountability of the public sector companies and of the State Governments to their Legislatures.

I am bringing the contents of the letter to the notice of Professor Malhotra. I hope you all will consider the matter with the deserving seriousness.

I think it is important that no one is allowed to take any of our Legislature Committees lightly. In the case of the Committees on Public Undertakings, it is all the more important that everyone concerned, the executive branch and the individual enterprises, do not do anything that would directly or indirectly compromise on the principle of accountability in their functioning as the reports of the Committees and the issues raised by the C&AG have a direct bearing on the management of public finance. Accountability and transparency in this area are at the core of the functioning of our democracy.

Friends, I am sure that this two-day Conference will contribute in its own ways in enhancing the accountability of public undertakings towards the Legislature, its Committees and through them to the people at large and that it will be a highly rewarding experience for all the participants.

With these words, it is my pleasure to inaugurate this Conference.

Thank you.

# 3

# ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF CHAIRMEN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES

The Conference of Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 17-18 January 2001. The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 17 January 2001. The Welcome Address to the Conference was delivered by the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and the Chairman of the Conference, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari.

The texts of the Addresses delivered by the two dignitaries on the occasion are reproduced below.

*—Editor*

## WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI

*Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi, Honourable Chairman Public Accounts Committees of State Legislatures; Honourable members of the Public Accounts Committee; the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Shunglu; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra; Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi; Distinguished Members of the Media and Friends:*

I deem it my proud privilege and honour to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the Ninth Conference of Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees. This momentous occasion today conjures up the fleeting images, spanning over centuries, of great parliamentary wranglings and acrimonious debates over the right of Parliament to assert its supremacy and call the executive to account. It was on 31 March 1862, that one of the greatest Parliamentarians in history, 'Gladstone' moved for the appointment of the first Standing Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons, "As a permanent piece of Commons' financial machinery ..... for exercising effective control over the appropriation of public money". Ever since then, different governments around the world, which have a parliamentary system and even other systems of Government,

have constituted such or similar committees for establishing strong financial control over Government expenditure.

It is a tribute to generations of our parliamentarians and the members of the successive Public Accounts Committees, first set up in 1921 in India, that we have evolved and set up sound traditions and practices to exercise control over public expenditure. Our parliamentary traditions and conventions are not static, but quintessentially the manifestation of our incessant striving to strengthen the existing tools and techniques of accountability and to evolve new ones to meet the challenges of the times. This Ninth Conference today affords us no opportunity to exchange views and experiences and to deliberate upon our common problems and to find ways and means to remove the hurdles in the great enterprise of accountability that we are engaged in.

It has been my humble experience as Chairman of the PAC that many areas of financial management and public expenditure need our immediate and focussed attention. A glance through the Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Union as well as the States brings out certain pronounced, and often recurring trends, such as defective budgetary assumptions and faulty estimation of Demands for Grants leading to either savings or excess expenditure; rush of expenditure in the month of March practically every year leading to temporary parking of funds and a source of possible malpractices; over-estimation of receipts and under-estimation of expenditure forcing the Ministries later to resort to Supplementary Grants and the widespread resort to reappropriations in violation of legislative sanction.

In addition to these common and recurring problems of varying intensity and magnitude, the State PACs have suggested very important and contextual subjects for the Conference. Friends, our Ninth Conference today is also the first Conference of the new millennium. We are in the midst of an Information Technology (IT) revolution when cyber accounting and internetting is going to become the order of the day. In order to cope with the demands of the times, we have to adopt and acclimatise ourselves with the myriads of software techniques so that these very techniques and electronic gadgets and internetting facilities lead us to a better monitoring of expenditure and revenues of the Government and keep ourselves in touch with the emerging global practices.

While the question of fixing individual responsibility for the lapses or irregularities is important, we must appropriately shift our strategy from 'blame and shame visited by punitive measures' to bringing about systemic improvement so as to enhance overall performance and prevent recurrence of similar incidents or failures.

I fully share the concern of many Honourable Chairmen of State PACs that the recommendations of the Committee ought to be implemented within a reasonable timeframe and the Government must make decisions expeditiously and inform the PAC timely.

Any inordinate delays by the Ministries in furnishing information sought by the Committees is indeed a matter of profound concern. Such delays or dilatory tactics hamper, undoubtedly, the work of the Committee, and on many occasions, this causes delay in finalising their reports. This aspect needs to be tackled on a priority basis since without full information or without hearing the other side, the Committee may not like to proceed *ex parte* on the basis of insufficient facts. I am optimistic that we can certainly surmount the problem with the perseverance of Honourable members and the expertise of C&AG or his able representatives which is available to all of us.

The desirability of bringing local bodies, autonomous bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Nagarpalikas within the audit of C&AG is another important proposal which deserves serious consideration of this august assembly, since these bodies are recipients of the outgo from the Consolidated Fund of the States and also sometimes from the Centre. Some States do have an audit framework like Local Fund Audit whose reports are also laid before the State Legislatures but many other do not have such a direct mechanism to examine local body or corporation accounts in a comprehensive manner. In many States, we have Co-operative Audit organisation also. But it is seldom that we have occasions to discuss those Cooperative Audit Reports. Similarly, the question of *suo motu* examination of a subject by the PAC which has not appeared in the Audit Report or a matter referred to the Committee by the Presiding Officers of the Legislature has been a matter of some animated discussions in the past which we shall be discussing again, as proposed by some of the State PACs. There is also a suggestion for opening the proceedings of the Committee to the Press and the public. This is a larger question which has a bearing on the entire Committee System and much can be said on either side for and against the proposal.

It appears that some State PACs are feeling hindered for want of quorum and punctuality on the part of some members of the Committee. Insofar as 'Quorum' is concerned, the Rules are clear which also provide the remedy to be applied. A problem like quorum can certainly be addressed and successfully resolved if there is good and periodic interaction between the Chairman and the members and proper co-ordination by the Secretariat. It should be expected that the parliamentary leadership of political parties will elect most of the members on any Committee

only after ascertaining the preferences of the Honourable member concerned. Such a procedure always provides the necessary motivation essential for any meaningful attendance and productive participation. There are other remedies which we shall be sharing in the course of this Conference.

I would particularly like to draw the attention of the State PACs to the growing apathy of Government Departments to Audit findings. It is our common experience that delay or non-submission of replies to draft audit paras by the Departments within the prescribed time deprives the Committee of their valuable views. If the Ministries reply to the Audit well in time, many audit paras would not appear in the report. This is a matter which the Central PAC has been taking up very seriously whenever we find delay or non-cooperation on the part of some Ministries. I understand that the position in some of the States is much alarming which is not only due to laxity or indifference on the part of Ministries but also due to the fact that the PACs are constituted very late and that they do not meet as frequently as they ought to meet. We must drive home the point that it is better to prevent than to lament. It is not beyond the realm of the possible if audit observations are taken seriously and in right earnest, and efforts are made by the Departments to help fix the system and prevent recurrence of similar failures. This is bound to leave a wholesome and salutary financial effect on the administration which is all that we strive and aim at.

Today, the Audit functions transcend beyond the traditional Audit of 'Tick and Turn' or 'attestation Audit' as the focus is now on performance appraisal or value for money. I hardly need to emphasise the need for constantly reviewing and shifting our own strategies while dealing with the witnesses being examined to pinpoint the lapses and irregularities. During my personal interaction with some of the Chairmen and members of some of the PACs of Europe and the American continents recently, I observed that the stress of their examination is on the value for money and performance appraisal. Efforts are underway to set up a forum of the Chairmen of the PACs of the Commonwealth to facilitate periodic exchange of ideas on contemporary developments and innovations taking place in the Commonwealth countries and beyond. I hope the efforts made in this direction, under the guidance of the Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, would fructify in the near future. It is a matter of privilege for us that the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and we will have her cooperation also in this regard.

Another item of singular import which we have placed before you is

"Follow up on Audit Reports". The lack of effective follow up action on Audit Reports has often been, to my mind, the weakest link in the chain of accountability. The subject assumes greater significance, as we are aware, for want of time, the PAC is able to examine only a few audit paras which the Committee considers relatively more important from its point of view. However, it has been observed that the non-selected Audit paras were either being overlooked or conveniently forgotten. We have further reviewed the situation and requested the office of the C&AG at the Central level to categorise the Action Taken Notes as (a) fully accepted; (b) partially accepted; and (c) not accepted. Pursuant to our decision, the Government of India have issued instructions to all the Departments to furnish duly vetted Action Taken Notes to the PAC within the stipulated time frame making it clear to the Departments that, if considered necessary, the PAC may take evidence even on a subject not selected by them. I hope, as observed by Basil Chubb, the famous expert on accountability on behalf of Parliament, in his classic treatise: *The Control of Public Expenditure,* it would "put the fear of Parliament in the Whitehall". This is within quotation because here, we have our own system, our own Legislatures and Parliament. But it has been written about a century back.

We are laying great stress on follow up on Audit Reports because we believe that if Audit is not given the importance that is due, 'Order, system, regularity – and public trust on these accounts' are bound to decline. It is precisely for this reason that while moving the draft article in the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar said:

> "Personally speaking for myself, I am of the opinion that this dignitary or officer – the C&AG – is probably the most important officer in the Constitution. He is the one man who is going to see that the expenses voted by Parliament are not exceeded or varied from what has been laid down by Parliament in what is called the Appropriation Act – his duties are far more important than even of the judiciary."

We ought to have, therefore, far grater synergy between the office of C&AG, his representatives and the PAC. In fact, I may share with you that the C&AG has been doing commendable service by bringing out special Audit Reports whenever so felt by them or requested by us. The mechanism of special Audit Reports is a device of great potential which can be, and should be, utilised for conducting performance reviews of important schemes. I would request the Honourable Chairmen of the Public Accounts Committees, the Secretaries and the other concerned friends to have an updated library of the PACs in which all the reports of the C&AG are available, whether they are valid for their own States

or not but maybe valid for other States and also for the Centre. These reports are strengthening our library and making it updated is very important in the context of global accounting and global evolution that is going on nowadays. For example, recently, the C&AG has brought out special reports called the Performance Appraisal Reports. Honourable Speaker has also seen them minutely which are regarding the Ganga Action Plan and on elimination of poverty by many Departments. I think each and every Chairman of the PAC has got those reports. It is also earmarked Statewise and it would be of utmost importance that these Reports are taken into account. Even though we do not discuss them in general, we can at least see whether it is valid in any part of the States. In the Centre, we have specifically formed Sub-Committees of the Public Accounts Committee to go into these reports and I am very confident that our esteemed colleagues in the Public Accounts Committee, who are Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of these Sub-Committees, will do their job according to plans and they are already on it.

The C&AG is also the ultimate repository of our more important recommendations involving principles and the decisions of the Government thereon. The Epitome of the PACs Reports brought out by the C&AG periodically, is a precious mine of information and valuable reference book. I would commend similar *Epitomes* being brought out by the State AGs as well. I think many States have already brought out such *Epitomes* but they could again review the whole situation and take necessary action.

Friends, during the past few years, there has been a phenomenal increase in the amount of money involved in every government activity. Further, the fields of governmental activity have also tremendously expanded. In view of these, the responsibilities of the Committee on Public Accounts have also greatly increased. In fact, with every passing year, this Committee system is acquiring more experience and gaining further in its stature as a watchdog over governmental spending. In Parliament and in the State Legislatures, the PACs have been playing the most crucial role with utmost care and commitment. Our task has been greatly facilitated by the C&AG at the national level and the Accountants-General at the State level. Together, we have been endeavouring to ensure that public money is fruitfully utilised and not wasted in any manner whatsoever. In the light of our experiences, we have come out with various suggestions for further streamlining the functioning of the PACs in our country. The Conference of the Chairmen of the PACs have been an invaluable forum to share and learn from our experiences, discuss, debate and find solutions to some of our common problems, and chart out ways and means to enhance the levels of our effective

functioning. We have received utmost cooperation in all these matters from the Honourable Speakers of the Lok Sabha from time to time, and the Honourable Speaker of the State Legislative Assemblies, as also from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. We hope to continue this tradition in future too. The items on the Agenda of this Conference have been drawn up with all these in mind. I am confident that we will have very meaningful discussion during our two-day deliberations.

Coming back to functioning of the PAC, I must say that we are fortunate to have unflinching support of the Honourable Members of the Public Accounts Committee, without whose zest, non-partisan and objective approach, it would not have been possible to hold as many as 43 sittings at the Central level and to give 18 Reports within a span of one year. It is this spirit of objectivity and impartiality culminating in the unanimity of their conclusions which adds to the sanctity and weight of the recommendation of the PAC in a parliamentary democratic system. This precious tradition of objectivity and impartiality has to be carried forward and nurtured, being – what I believe – the very cornerstone of our Committee system. I am sure that all of you have similar cooperation from your colleagues in the PAC in different States.

I take this opportunity to thank the media for showing interest in the work of the Committee by giving space to its Reports. I am sanguine that the media would continue to evince interest and mirror the work of PAC through its coverage.

Before I conclude, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Speaker, Shri Balayogi, for being here today. I am beholden to him for the due courtesy and consideration shown to us in the Public Accounts Committee whenever we sought his guidance and support for the Public Accounts Committee.

I must appreciate the invaluable guidance, expertise and support extended by the organisation of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Comptroller and Auditor General himself to the Committee Members and to the Public Accounts Committee. Shri V.K. Shunglu, our illustrious Comptroller and Auditor General, has been showing great interest in the work of the Committee. He invariably attends the sittings of the Committee and his briefings and interventions are of immense help to us. I am also fully aware that the Accountants-General – representatives of the Comptroller and Auditor General – in the States also similarly attend the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee. I am sure they will always continue to do it. When I was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in Uttar Pradesh 40 years ago – in 1960 –

even at that point of time, this system was there. The Accountant-General, Shri C. Konar, at that point of time, invariably attended every Public Accounts Committee meeting in the State and whatever help was needed by the State PAC, it was given by him. I hope these traditions are continuing and will continue in the new millennium also with all the computers, Internet arrangements and everything. We will have all these technological tools with us in the 21 century. I think, the quality of our work will further improve with the help of these new electronic gadgets and computeronics.

I must make special mention of the keen interest that Shri G.C. Malhotra, our erudite Secretary-General, Lok Sabha takes in the affairs of the PAC despite burdened with many responsibilities of the House and the Committee. He was himself associated with the PAC for many years and that had been an additional help to us. He is ever ready and willing to provide every support – men or material – needed by us in the PAC. Similarly, I am thankful to Shri Tripathi, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha for his invaluable contribution in the work of the PAC as far as the Rajya Sabha support is concerned. I also thank the respective Assembly and Committee Secretariats for giving their unstinted cooperation to all of you.

I am thankful to the Conference Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for organising the Conference efficiently. I also express my thanks to the Translation Wing and the Printing Branch of the Secretariat for their valuable assistance. Our PAC Secretariat headed by Joint Secretary, Shri P.D.T. Achary, deserve my sincere thanks for the hard work and labour they have put in with regard to this Conference and whenever we have continuous work of the Public Accounts Committee.

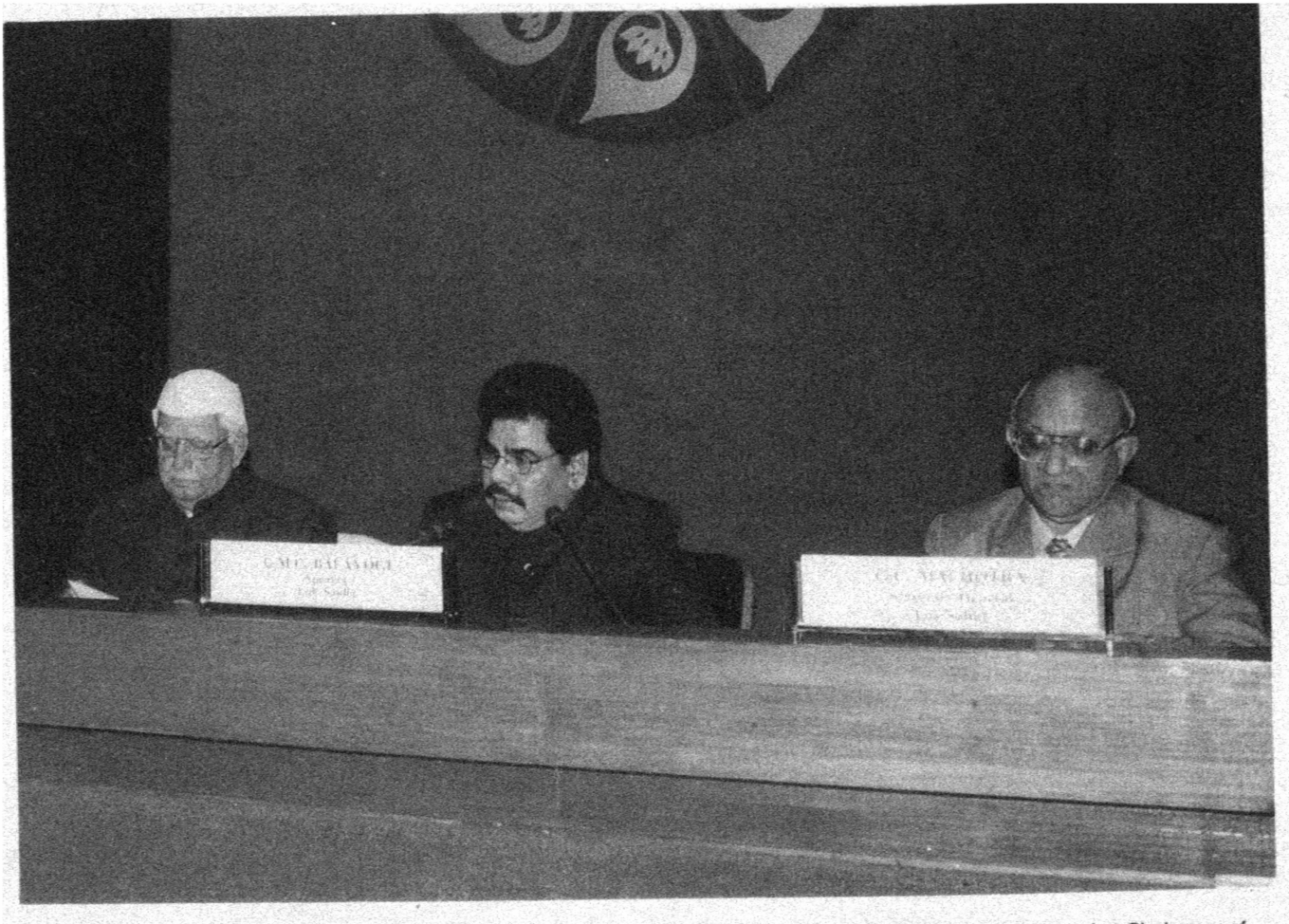
May I on behalf of you all now request the Honourable Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi to deliver the Inaugural Address?

Thank you.

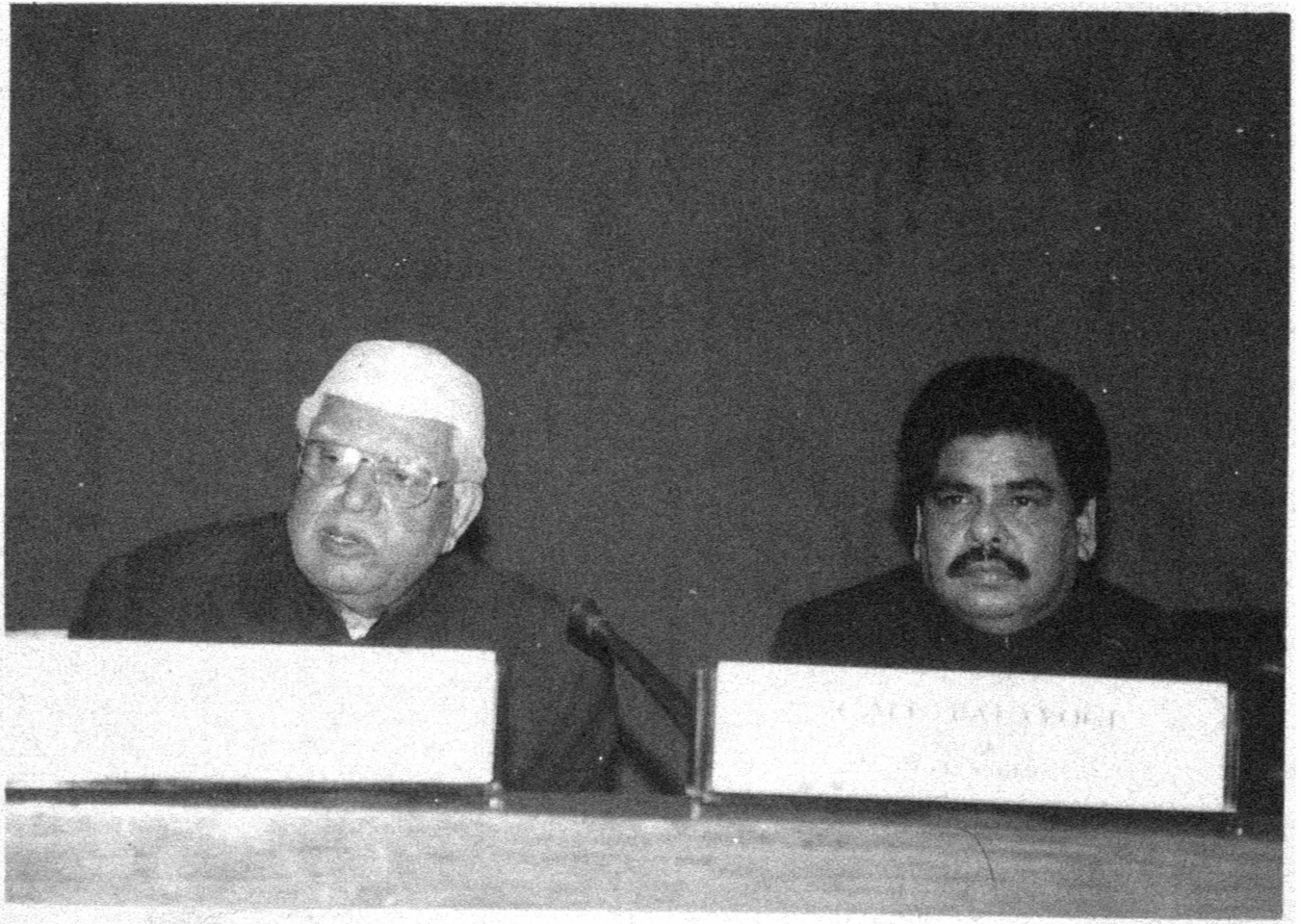
## INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

*Honourable Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts of Parliament, Shri N.D. Tiwariji; Honourable Chairmen of the Committees on Public Accounts of State Legislatures; Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri V.K. Shungluji; Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra; Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri Tripathiji; and Distinguished Guests:*

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be here with you this



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi addressing theConference. Also seen in the picture are the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari; and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra



The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Chairman of the Conference, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari delivering the Welcome Address

morning at the inauguration of the Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures.

The Committee on Public Accounts enjoys a pride of place in our Committee System. It was way back in 1921 that the PAC was constituted for the first time, both at the Centre and in the Provinces. Since then, the PAC has become an important instrument of legislative surveillance over administration under the leadership of its distinguished Chairmen. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwariji, undoubtedly, is one such eminent leader and distinguished parliamentarian leading his Committee today. I am sure the position in State Legislatures is not any different. To ensure transparency in its role, a very healthy convention of appointing a prominent member of the Opposition as the Chairman of the PAC has been developed at the Parliament's level. This practice, initiated in 1967, has continued since then. I am sure this position may be obtaining in the State Legislatures too. I can say with conviction that this convention has definitely added greater credibility to the functioning of the PAC.

The accountability of the Executive to the Legislature, as we all know, is the basic and distinctive feature of our parliamentary democracy and this task is not as simple as it is said. With the phenomenal proliferation of governmental activities, ensuring accountability has become more and more complex in modern times. Parliaments all over the world have, therefore, created a system of Committees apart from other procedural devices, to ensure effective surveillance over the administration. A well-defined Committee System is at the core of developed democratic societies everywhere, so much so that many modern Governments have come to be known as Governments by Committees today. The elaborate Committee System that we have in our Parliament and State Legislatures today is an acknowledgement of the fact that the Committees play a significant role, more so in a large democracy like ours. Our experience over the years has been that the recommendations of these Committees are given the highest consideration by the Executive. Based on governmental responses, Action Taken Reports of the Committees are also prepared and laid on the Table of the House.

As you all are aware, there are specific provisions in our Constitution incorporating the tenet that no money can be drawn by the Executive without the approval of the Legislature. Our Constitution has thus vested the power of the purse specifically in the hands of the people through their elected representatives, thus sanctifying the principle "no taxation without representation". It is the Legislatures and the Committees ultimately which scrutinize the accounts in order to ensure that the money has been spent prudently and economically.

Often referred to as the eyes and ears of the Legislatures, the Committees on Public Accounts keep an unremitting vigil over governmental spending and performance. Besides, they also bring to light inefficiencies in the implementation of policies and programmes approved by the Legislatures. While keeping the Executive under check in regard to irregularities, waste and inefficiency, these Committees have, from time to time, set forth constructive suggestions for proper implementation of policies and programmes, playing a critical, yet constructive role. Their appraisal is not merely financial; they go into the socio-economic efficacy of the various programmes of the Government. Their examination is not just *post mortem;* their conclusions and recommendations arrived at after examining the past and present activities have indeed a great validity for the future.

Here, I would like to specifically mention about the action on non-selected paras of the C&AG reports which is one of the items on the Agenda of this Conference. As you all know, the reports of the C&AG mainly form the subject matter of the deliberations of the PAC. Initially, every year, the Committee used to make selection of audit paras included in various reports of the C&AG and since there was a constraint of time, the Committee would select 30 to 35 paragraphs out of the around 400 paragraphs for in-depth examination. No action, however, was taken on non-selected audit paras. This practice continued till 1981 when the PAC recommended to call for notes indicating remedial and corrective actions taken by the concerned Ministries within a stipulated period of time on all the audit paras of the C&AG Reports. Though there were inordinate delays and persistent failures on the part of the Ministries initially, the position has improved considerably with time.

The performance of the PAC at the national level speaks volumes about its role and effectiveness in our parliamentary system. From 26 January 1950, when the PAC was constituted in Independent India till December 2000, the Committee has produced around 1265 reports. On an average, 61 percent of the recommendations of the PAC are accepted by the Government in the first instance and out of the remaining 39 percent, 9 to 10 percent of the recommendations are dropped at the Action Taken Report stage, in consultation with the PAC, while about 10 percent are reiterated by the Committee. In another 20 percent recommendations, extension of time is sought by the Government and a good number of this is also later accepted by the Government. Thus, on an average, more than three-fourths of the PAC recommendations are accepted by the Government. These statistics are ample proof of the fact that though investigating into the expenditure already incurred, the PAC is one of the most important pillars of financial accountability.

Friends, over the past few years, it has been observed that there are certain disquieting trends in the system of budgeting and observance of prescribed financial rules. There have been instances of extensive re-appropriation, deficient financial management and occurrence of several other financial irregularities. Needless to say, this is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. Faulty Budget estimation and the undesirable tendency of the Ministries to grossly over-estimate their requirements of funds not only lead to inefficient utilization of funds but also deprive other important sectors of the economy of the much-needed resources. To make the Budget exercise more meaningful and realistic, the PAC reports have suggested, from time to time, that it is necessary that the Ministries should gear up their internal monitoring to keep a watch over the trends of the expenditure against the sanctioned grant or appropriation and also take timely corrective action to obtain additional funds only when required so that the undesirable tendency of incurring excess expenditure can be minimised. Another recurring malady which the PACs need to address is the huge "unspent balances" in key development areas in various Ministries and Departments.

The manifold activities in the governmental expenditure over the years have widened the scope of the audit scrutiny. As a result, more and more cases of waste, loss and extravagant expenditure are reported in the C&AG's reports, The scope of audit on revenue receipts has also widened considerably. It goes without saying that the need of the hour is to ensure transparency and efficiency in governmental action and expenditure. This cannot be achieved overnight. It is only when those manning the institutions of Government, including senior civil servants, discharge their duties diligently and with utmost commitment that transparency and efficiency could be a logical result. It is here that the media can play an important role by keeping a constant vigil on the Executive, bringing to light its acts of omission and commission.

I understand that one of the agenda items of the Conference relates to opening the proceedings of the PACs to public and the Press. I look forward to benefiting from your views on this crucial aspect.

The successful functioning of democracy depends *inter alia* on the financial accountability of the Executive to the Legislature and to the representatives of the people. We have to bear in mind, all the time, that any erosion on financial control means erosion of democracy as such. The question of financial accountability has been receiving considerable attention during all these years. This Conference here, today, provides us with an opportunity to share the experiences of all those associated with the working of these Committees across the

country. The subjects you have chosen for detailed deliberations in this Conference cover a wide gamut of the activities of this Committee. I am sure the deliberations here will provide an insight into finding ways and means in enhancing the accountability of the Executive towards Legislature and through them to the people at large. With these words, it is my pleasure to inaugurate this Conference.

Thank you.

# 4

# THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES, NEW DELHI, 15-16 DECEMBER 2000

After Independence, under the distinguished leadership of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the public sector was assigned a definite place in the scheme of economic development. The role of the public sector was expanded during the various Plan periods in accordance with the social and economic objectives envisaged in the plans. The public sector has been responsible for providing infrastructure facilities like railways, shipping, air services, power and communications and services like banking, insurance, etc. It has laid the basis for heavy engineering, including steel and electrical, and achieving near self-reliance in the crucial area of defence equipment from guns to aircraft. It has also played a significant role in the modern field of electronics.

The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) has acted as the eyes and ears to Parliament as far as the public sector undertakings are concerned. The Committee selects a few Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) every year to make a detailed study and to submit a Report on them to Parliament. Besides this, certain common aspects of working of various Public Enterprises are also selected for making a horizontal study of the chosen aspect. In connection with the examination of these subjects, the Committee undertakes study tours to various places with the permission of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. On the lines of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings, the State Legislatures also have their Committees on Public Undertakings. In the past, two Conferences of Chairmen of Committee on Public Undertakings in Parliament and the State Legislatures have been held, the first in 1975 and the second in 1982.

The Third Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi from 15 to 16 December 2000.

On 15 December 2000, the Conference was inaugurated* by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings and Chairman of the Conference**, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra delivered the Welcome address. Among other dignitaries who attended the inaugural function were the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Shri V.K. Shunglu; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi. The Chairmen of COPU from about 17 States/Union territories attended the Conference.

The principal objective of the Conference was to provide an opportunity for interaction of the Chairmen of the Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and the State Legislatures to exchange views on various problems facing the Indian economy in general and the Public Sector in particular. The Conference also provided an opportunity to deliberate on issues relating to the procedures of the Committee on Public Undertakings as well as the functioning of Public Sector Undertakings and the regulatory role of the Government.

The Conference discussed various items on the Agenda during the two-day' deliberations. They were: Need to select comprehensive appraisal of various Public Undertakings contained in the Special Reports (Commercial) of the C&AG as subjects for detailed examination, as these comprehensive reports constitute a ready-made and focused base material on vital areas of functioning of the Public Undertakings concerned and as such would help making a quick snap study; Role of the Committee on Public Undertakings to ensure the accountability/financial discipline in the public sector to make Public Undertakings more effective; Need for evolving realistic and effective policies to make the PSUs economically viable and for ensuring bureaucratic/managerial accountability for loss sustained by the Public Sector Undertakings on account of gross mismanagement due to professional incompetence and financial irregularities; Jurisdiction of the Committee to summon retired/transferred officials to give oral evidence before the Committee and examine persons other than those belonging to the Undertakings/ Departments under scrutiny to corroborate the information furnished during witness examination; Need for giving due weightage to the considered views of the Committee on Public Undertakings prior to

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* ** For the text of the Addresses, see Feature " Addresses at the Inaugural Function of the Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures", Vol. XVII, No. 1, March 2001, pp. 23-28

taking decisions by the Government to wind up a Corporation/Undertaking on account of persistent loss or to convert sick Public Undertakings into Joint Sector Company or to make over to the Private Sector in the context of economic liberalization; Need to set up a mechanism at the level of the Legislature and Government so that expeditious steps are taken to consider and implement the recommendations of the Committee; Need to fix the responsibility in order to avoid delay on the part of the Administrative Department in submitting desired information / reply and in taking appropriate action on the recommendations of the Committee; Delay in receipt of explanatory notes/ Action Taken Reports / Further action taken reports and in getting action taken statements on the recommendations of the Committee; Need for updating the accounts of the Public Sector Undertakings in arrears for the long years and to avoid delay in finalisation of accounts by the Public Undertakings; Delay in getting remedial notes from the company / concern on the Audit paragraphs; Need for formulating definite norms / guidelines determining the staffing pattern of the PSUs to secure greater economy as well as efficiency and effectiveness in the day to day management of the Corporation; Status of the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings; Need to increase the term of the Committee on Public Undertakings for two-three years in place of one year and the desirability of adequate training and efficient staff and hiring of services of experts for effective assistance to the Committee; and Media relations of the Committee on Public Undertakings specially regarding reports presented, Action Taken Reports etc.

The Conference took the following decisions on the various issues deliberated during the two days :–

- *Discussion of the Committee Reports by the Board of Directors:* The Conference recommended that the Reports of the Committee should inevitably be discussed in detail by the Board of Directors of the Public Sector Undertakings concerned for taking action on the same.

- *Convening of Press Conference after presentation of the Committee Reports:* The Conference unanimously felt that there was a need for convening a Press Conference after presentation of the Reports of the Committees to the Parliament / Legislatures.

- *Misappropriation of Funds in the PSUs:* The Conference expressed serious concern about cases of misappropriation of

funds in the PSUs. It also expressed the opinion that wherever such cases of misappropriation of funds were detected, suitable action should be taken against the erring officials and adverse entries should be made in their confidential dossiers. Need was also expressed for professionalising the management of the Public Sector Enterprises.

- *Delay in Finalisation of Accounts of the PSUs/ in Furnishing Action Taken Notes on Audit Reports:* The Conference expressed concern over the delay in the finalisation of accounts of the PSUs as well as receipt of the explanatory notes/action taken notes on the Audit Reports by the State PSUs. To overcome the situation, several remedial measures such as deputing officers of the Central Audit Board for completing the accounting, recruiting qualified accountants and utilising the services of retired officials of the C&AG were suggested mainly by the officers of the Audit Board. The Conference stressed the need to consider these measures with due seriousness by the State Legislatures so as to ensure accountability and proper functioning of the PSUs.

- *Summoning Retired/Transferred Officials for Evidence:* Many States expressed their concern over their inability to summon retired and transferred officers of the government and also the Public Undertakings apart from experts on subjects to tender evidence before the Committee. The Conference was of the considered view that the State Legislatures concerned should amend their rules in order to make a provision to have this essential facility. It, therefore, urged the State Legislatures to take immediate steps in this direction.

- *Delay in Furnishing Action Taken Replies by the State PSUs:* With regard to the delay in the receipt of Action Taken replies to recommendations of the Committee, the Conference recommended that all the State Legislatures should necessarily fix up a specified time limit for furnishing the necessary replies and in cases of default, the procedure followed by the Parliamentary Committee (*i.e.* giving a time limit of six months after the presentation of the Original Reports) might be followed to ensure compliance.

- *Disinvestment of the PSUs/ Winding Up of the Sick Units:* Regarding proposals for disinvestment in the PSUs and the winding up of sick units, the Conference felt that the Committee should be invariably taken into confidence by the government in each case where they decide to take such measures.

- *Missing of Files:* On the issue of missing of files on subjects under examination, the Conference felt that the Committees should recommend investigation by independent authorities like the CBI / Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with a view to fixing responsibilities for the lapses. Simultaneously, the PSUs concerned should be asked to reconstruct the relevant files.

- *Staffing Pattern in the PSUs:* Regarding the staffing pattern in the PSUs, the Conference felt that factual position relating to excess manpower vary from undertaking to undertaking. In such cases, remedial measures like Personnel Audits, Redeployment of surplus staff, introduction of the VRS, banning *ad hoc* appointments, deputation, etc., as appropriate, should be recommended by the COPUs.

- *Facilities for Chairmen of the State PSUs:* The Conference urged the State Legislatures to provide various facilities such as office room, personal staff, appropriate travel and phone facilities, etc. to the Chairmen of COPUs keeping the functional necessities and status of the Chairpersons of the Committees in view.

- *Term of the COPUs:* The Conference recommended increasing the term of the COPUs to two and half years from the existing one year in order to ensure that there was continuity and also the experience and expertise gained by the members over the period was put to proper use.

The Conference desired that the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures would take emergent measures on the various decisions of the Conference.

# 5

# THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES, NEW DELHI, 17-18 JANUARY 2001

On 31 March 1862, one of the greatest parliamentarians in history, Gladstone moved for the appointment of the First Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the British House of Commons, "as a permanent piece of Commons financial machinery ------ for exercising effective control over the appropriation of public money". Over the years, governments around the world, whether with a parliamentary system or otherwise, have constituted such or similar Committees for establishing strong financial control of the Legislature over Government expenditure.

In India, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), was set up in 1921 at the Central level. Through the decades, the PAC has become an important instrument of legislative surveillance over administration. This is evident from the fact that from 26 January 1950, in India till December 2000, the Committee has submitted around 1,265 Reports. On an average, 61 per cent of the recommendations of the PAC are accepted by the Government in the first instance and out of the remaining 39 per cent, 9 to 10 per cent of the recommendations are dropped at the Action Taken Report stage, in consultation with the PAC, while about 10 per cent are reiterated by the Committee. In another 20 per cent recommendations, extension of time is sought by the Government and a good number of this is also later accepted by the Government. Thus, on an average, more than three-fourths of the PAC recommendations are accepted by the Government. The PACs have been functioning as a key Watch dog Committee in the State Legislatures too.

With a view to facilitating interaction among the PACs of Parliament and those of the State Legislatures, Conferences of the PAC Chairmen are held periodically. The Ninth Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi from 17 to 18 January 2001. The Conference sought to provide an opportunity for interaction among the PAC Chairmen to exchange views on subjects of mutual interest and also to discuss and debate the various problems being faced by the PACs in discharging their functions.

The Conference also provided an opportunity to deliberate on problems confronted by the PACs in their examination of various subjects.

The Conference was inaugurated* by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 17 January 2001 in Parliament House Annexe in New Delhi. The Chairman, PAC of Parliament, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari welcomed* the distinguished gathering. Among the other dignitaries who attended the function were the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Shri V.K. Shunglu; the Chairmen of PACs of about 20 States/Union Territories, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra, and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi.

The Conference discussed various items on the Agenda during the two days' deliberations. These were: Follow-up on Audit reports; Need for more Effective Functioning of the Public Accounts Committees; Implementation of the PAC's recommendations; Failure/Delay on the Part of Ministries/Departments in furnishing information; Scope of *suo motu* examination by the Public Accounts Committees; Suggestion for Formation of Separate PACs for Civil and Revenue Receipt Audit Paragraphs; Regularisation of Excess Expenditure; Regularity of Expenditure; Scope of Examination of the State PACs; and Tenure of the PAC and Audit of Local Bodies/Autonomous Bodies by the C&AG.

Some of the major conclusions that emerged from the discussions at the Conference are as under:

> *Follow-up on Audit Reports:* There was complete unanimity that there must be vigorous follow up on the Audit reports. Taking note of the fact that the PACs were able to examine only a few paragraphs of the Audit reports and also that the Ministries/ Departments had not initiated timely remedial action on the audit observation, the Central PAC had devised a new methodology by which the remedial action taken notes were duly categorised into (a) accepted; (b) partially accepted; and (c) not accepted, by the Office of the C&AG, and thereafter, the PAC would examine them and if necessary, the Committee might take evidence even on the subjects not selected by them. If

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* For the text of the Addresses delivered at the inaugural function, see Feature "Addresses at the Inaugural Function of the Conference of Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees of Parliament and State Legislatures", Vol. XLVII, No. 1, March 2001, pp. 29-40

such a practice was followed by the State PACs also with the assistance of the Office of the Accountant-General, it would go a long way in putting the fear of Parliament in the Government Departments in attending to the Audit observations and taking conclusive remedial action thereon.

*Need for More Effective Functioning of the PACs:* The Conference unanimously agreed and endorsed the need for making the functioning of the PACs more effective in order to secure the accountability of the Government Departments to the Legislature. It was also agreed that by adopting the following measures, the problem of quorum and punctuality could be resolved:–

- Effective coordination between the members of the Committee and the Committee Secretariat;
- Advance planning of sittings of the Committee and periodic written as well as telephonic reminders to the members;
- Absence from the sittings of the Committee should not be condoned as it would, besides being inconsonant with the Rules, promote absenteeism; and
- Where a member does not attend three consecutive sittings, the matter should be brought to his notice stating the Rules position and subsequently, the matter should be reported to the Speaker.

*Implementation of the PAC's Recommendations:* While voicing concern over the inordinate delay in the implementation of the recommendations of the PACs by some Ministries, the Conference emphasised the need for strict time frame for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. The need for examining the latest audit paras was also emphasised so that there was no hurdle in fixing the responsibility on delinquent/ guilty officers.

*Failure/Delay on the part of Ministries/Departments in furnishing information:* It was suggested that in cases of failure/delay on the part of the Ministries/Departments in furnishing information within time or when they resorted to dilatory tactics, the Committee

should use its powers under the Rules to send for papers, persons and records.

*Scope of suo motu examination by the PACs:* The Conference, after discussing the matter at length came to the conclusion that the PAC could examine a subject referred to them by the House or the Presiding Officer. In deserving cases, the Committee could also consider examination of the subject not included in the Audit Reports and simultaneously request the C&AG to prepare an audit report on the subject so that the Committee could benefit from the expert examination of the Audit also.

*Suggestion for formation of Separate PACs for Civil and Revenue Receipt Audit Paragraphs:* The Conference felt that the existing framework of the Committee, if utilized effectively could be good enough for examination of Audit reports. Instead of having two separate PACs, the PAC could be sub-divided into Sub-Committees, which should examine issues relating to a particular field in a more extensive as well as intensive manner.

*Regularisation of Excess Expenditure:* The Conference was of the opinion that the relevant Rule provided that the Committee would examine the circumstances in which excess expenditure was incurred in each case and thereafter would make such recommendations as it might deem fit. There was also a strong and unanimous view that incurring of excess expenditure was a practice which should not be allowed as a recurring feature. The Conference unanimously agreed that the statement circulated by the Office of the C&AG showing pendency of excess expenditure to be regularised by the States be placed before the forthcoming Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

*Regularity of Expenditure:* The Conference vehemently castigated the practice of rushing expenditure in the month of March which could be a source of possible malpractices, besides, having an adverse cascading effect on the economy. The Conference unanimously underlined the need for observing the principles of

wisdom, faithfulness and economy of expenditure within the frame work of the Rules and regulations as approved by Legislatures in the interest of transparency and financial discipline.

*Scope of examination of the State PACs:* The Conference deliberated on the issue and observed that though the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme was a fully Centrally funded Scheme, not only did the benefits accrue to the local areas but also the execution of all works under the Scheme was carried by the agencies of the State Governments. Therefore, audit observations appeared both in the Central Audit report and State Audit reports. After going into the pros and cons of the Scheme and its mode of implementation and the realisation that there were MPLADS Committees of both the Houses of Parliament to examine the MPLAD works, a decision in the matter was deferred for further discussion.

*Tenure of the PACs:* The unanimous view of the Conference was that the PACs should have a longer tenure keeping in view the consensus arrived at successive Conferences and the recommendations of the Shakdhar Committee.

*Audit of Local Bodies/Autonomous Bodies by the C&AG:* It was agreed that the State PACs might take up the matter with the State Governments to bring suitable legislation making provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and auditing of all such accounts. Since the State Legislature was the only competent authority to permit withdrawal of funds from the State Consolidated Fund, the authority of exercising legislative control and financial scrutiny also rested with the State PAC.

# 6

# PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

*104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference :* The 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 15 to 21 October 2000. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri P.A. Sangma, K.P. Singh Deo, H.K. Javare Gowda, S. Sivasubramanian, B. Venkateshwarlu, Prof. (Smt.) Bharati Ray, Smt. Margaret Alva and Smt. Bhavnaben Chikhalia, all members of Parliament; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra; and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi. Shri P. Sreedharan, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference mainly discussed and adopted Declarations/ Resolutions on the following subjects:

(i) The prevention of military and other coups against democratically elected governments and against the free will of the peoples expressed through direct suffrage, and action to address grave violations of the human rights of parliamentarians;

(ii) Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty;

(iii) Are embargoes and economic sanctions still ethically acceptable, do they still work, and are they suited to achieving their purpose in an ever more globalised world? (supplementary item); and

(iv) Bringing an end to the tension and violence in the Middle East, protecting civilians in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, and action to save the peace process in accordance with the relevant United Nations Resolutions (Emergency supplementary item).

Besides, the Conference held the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, in which 126 speakers took part.

*Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings*

*of Parliament and the State Legislatures:* The Third Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and the State Legislatures was held in New Delhi from 15 to 16 December 2000. The Conference was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 15 December 2000. The Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings and the Chairman of the Conference, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra delivered the Welcome Address at the Conference. The Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of almost all the State Legislatures participated in the Conference*.

*8th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on "Environment and Development":* The 8th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on Environment and Deve-lopment' (APPCED) was held at Hyderabad from 14 to 16 November 2000, which was organised by Parliament of India. This was the first ever Conference of the APPCED held in India.

The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference was led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed. The other members of the Delegation were: the Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forest, Shri C. Ramchandraiah; Sarvashri Balram Singh Yadav, Naresh Puglia, Debabrata Biswas, Sudarasana E.M. Natchippan, Lalitbhai Mehta, Prof. R.R. Pramanik, Dr. (Smt.) Beatrix D'Souza, Smt. Bhavanaben Chikhalia, and Smt. Chandresh Kumari, all members of Parliament. Shri Harnam Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Sarvashri Somnath Chatterjee, K. Yerrannaidu, Sahib Singh Verma, all members of Parliament and Shri P. Upendra, former member, attended the Conference in their capacity as members of the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group.

Out of the 45 member countries of the APPCED, around 105 delegates and accompanying officials from 18 member countries and two international organisations participated in the Conference. The participants mainly included Speakers of Parliaments, Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees and senior Parliamentarians.

Presiding Officers from the thirteen Indian State Legislatures, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and

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* For details, *see* Feature "Addresses at the Inaugural Function of the Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures" (pp. 23-28) and Short Note, "The Third Conference of Chairmen of Committees on Public Undertakings of Parliament and State Legislatures (pp. 41-45)

Kashmir, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal and Pondicherry also participated in the Conference.

The inaugural ceremony of the Conference was held in the Chambers of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Hyderabad on 14 November 2000. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant inaugurated the Conference. Among others, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. C. Rangarajan, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and President of Inter-Parliamentary Council of the I.P.U., Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed, and the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Smt. K. Prathibha Bharati addressed the distinguished gathering at the inaugural ceremony. The other proceedings of the Conference were held at Hotel Taj Krishna at Hyderabad. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was elected as the President of the Eighth General Assembly of the Conference.

The general theme of the Conference was "Environmental Ethics and Public Education". The Conference held three Plenary Sessions on: (i) Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development; (ii) Creation of Public Awareness; and (iii) Role of Parliaments.

At the end, the Conference unanimously adopted a "Hyderabad Declaration" on 15 November 2000 which, *inter alia,* called upon the international community to evolve a comprehensive code of environmental ethics taking into consideration all the factors, including the ill-effects of the use of armed force contributing to environmental degradation, the need to address the problem of poverty, and developmental compulsions of States. The Conference also urged the developed countries to undertake necessary corrective actions to tackle unsustainable consumption patterns and to ensure that their Official Development Assistance Commitments of 0.7 per cent of annual GDP made at Rio Earth Summit are met.

*Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on "Impact of Tuberculosis and Malaria on Poverty":* A Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on "Impact of Tuberculosis and Malaria on Poverty," organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 27 to 29 November 2000.

An Indian Parliamentary Delegation consisting of Shri T.N. Chaturvedi, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Panja, Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal, Dr. (Smt.) Rajeswaramma Vukalla and Miss Mabel Rebello, all members of Parliament, attended the Conference.

*232nd Session of the IPU Executive Committee and IPU-FICCI Conference on 'Globalisation and Democracy':* The 232nd Session of the IPU Executive Committee was held in New Delhi from 4 to 5 December 2000. This event was followed by an IPU-FICCI Conference on 'Globalisation and Democracy' which was held from 5 to 6 December 2000, to debate on globalisation and the need to give it a direction for equitable social development. The participants to the Conference included members of the IPU Executive Committee, members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce, and a few keynote speakers and experts.

The Conference mainly discussed the following subjects: (i) Globalisation and Democracy: Synergies and Contradictions; (ii) Globalisation and Economic Freedom; (iii) Information Technology, Globalisation and Institution Building; and (iv) Democratic Empowerment and Globalisation.

*Address by the President of the Russian Federation, HE Mr. Vladimir Putin to Members of Parliament*:* The President of the Russian Federation, HE Mr. Vladimir Putin addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament on 4 October 2000, in the Central Hall of Parliament House under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG).

## BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the IPG to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 October to 31 December 2000.

*Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:* On the occasion of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, a function was held on 2 October 2000. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Tourism and Culture,

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* For details, *see* Feature "Address by His Excellency, Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to members of Parliament", *The Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLVI, No. 4, December 2000, pp. 540-550

Shri Ananth Kumar; the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Venkaiah Naidu; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

*Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 2000. The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik; the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; the Minister of State for Finance, Shri V. Dhananjay Kumar; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

*Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a function was held on 5 November 2000. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

*Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November 2000. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

*Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 2000. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Minister of Labour, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

*Smt. Indira Gandhi:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M.

Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi.

*Dr. Rajendra Prasad:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 2000. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

*Shri C. Rajagopalachari:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 2000. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri C. Rajagopalachari.

*Chaudhury Charan Singh:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhury Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 2000. The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Chaudhury Charan Singh.

*Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:* On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, a function was held on 25 December 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications, Shri Tapan Sikdar; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

## EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

### PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

*Australia:* On our invitation, a 5-member Parliamentary Delegation from Australia led by Dr. Andrew Southcott, Member of Parliament, visited India from 17 to 23 November 2000. The visiting Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 20 November 2000. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed hosted a dinner in their honour on the same day. The Delegation called on the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla; and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja on 21 November 2000.

On 22 November 2000, the Delegation called on the Vice-President

of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant. They also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Chennai.

*Kazakhstan:* On our invitation, an 8-member Parliamentary Delegation from Kazakhstan, led by the Chairman of the *Majlis* of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Zharmakhan Tuyakbai visited India from 4 to 8 December 2000. The visiting Delegation called on the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C.Balayogi; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on 5 December 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour on the same day. The Delegation called on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh on 6 December 2000. They also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs the same day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Mumbai.

*Uganda:* On our invitation, a 6-member Parliamentary Delegation from Uganda led by the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Mr. Francis J. Ayume, visited India from 18 to 24 December 2000. The visiting Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan; and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 18 December 2000. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh; and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla on 19 December 2000. They also had a meeting with members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs the same day. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a dinner in their honour in the evening.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Bangalore and Mumbai.

## BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 October to 31 December 2000, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

*Sixteenth Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary*

*Officials:* The Sixteenth Parliamentary Internship Programme for foreign parliamentary officials was organised from 22 September to 10 November 2000. The former Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Rabi Ray inaugurated the Programme on 26 September 2000. Twenty-three participants from eleven Afro-Asian countries *viz.* one each from Ethiopia, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Philippines, Mongolia and South Africa; two each from Bangladesh and Zambia; three from Ghana; four from Sri Lanka and six from Kyrgyzstan participated in the Programme, which aimed to provide the foreign parliamentary officials an opportunity to exchange their experiences in their Legislatures and to acquaint themselves with the environment, culture, tradition and working of parliamentary institutions in India.

*Sixteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting:* The Sixteenth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organised from 23 November 2000 to 27 January 2001. The Programme was of nine weeks duration. Twelve participants from various Afro-Asian countries, *viz.* one each from Ghana, Republic of Korea, Republic of Maldives and Nepal, two from Iran and three each from Indonesia and Kazakhstan attended the Programme. Two officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat and one officer each from Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Secretariats also attended the Programme.

The Programme was designed to equip the parliamentary officials with basic concepts, skills and techniques required for drafting legislation so that they could assist members of Parliament whenever required.

*Computer Training Programmes:* Two Computer Training Programmes for members of the Lok Sabha and one for their personal staff were organised from 4 to 8, 11 to 15 and 18 to 22 December 2000. Another Computer Training on Internet/E-mail for the staff of the Stenographers' Pool, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was organised from 3 to 4 October 2000.

*Appreciation Courses:* Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organised for the following:

(i) Probationers of Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineers and Indian Economic Service (30 October to 3 November 2000);

(ii) Probationers of Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers and Indian Information Service (13 to 17 November 2000);

(iii) Senior Audit/Accounts Officers from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (11 to 15 December 2000); and

(iv) Probationers of Indian Railways Signal Engineering and Telecommunications Service (18 to 22 December 2000).

*Attachment Programmes:* Two Attachment Programmes were organised: (i) for the Deputy Secretary-General, Parliament of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Priyanee Wijesekera from 3 to 13 October 2000 to enable her to familiarize herself with the working of Indian Parliament and electronic voting system in the Lok Sabha; and for Permanent Secretary-in-Charge of Parliamentary Affairs in the Office of the Vice-President, Government of Zambia, Mrs. R.C. Musenge on 30 and 31 October 2000 to enable her to familiarize herself with the functioning of the Indian Parliament.

*Training Courses for Officials of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature Secretariats:* The following Training Programmes were organised:

(i) Training Course for Senior/Junior Library Assistants of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Librarians/Deputy Librarians of the State Legislature Secretariats from 16 to 20 October 2000. Fifteen participants from 7 State Legislature Secretariats *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Mizoram and Tripura and seven officers from the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended the Programme.

(ii) A similar Training Course was also organised for the Watch & Ward officers of Parliament and the State Legislature Secretariats from 6 to 10 November 2000. Nineteen participants from eight State Legislature Secretariats, *viz.* Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal and ten officials from the Lok Sabha and five officers from the Rajya Sabha Secretariats attended the Programme.

(iii) Stenography classes-three each in English and Hindi-were organised from 29 November to 7 December 2000 for Stenographers of Lok Sabha Secretariat.

*Nominations for Training/Conference Abroad:* The 6th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) was held in Tokyo from 2 to 6 October 2000. Shri N.K. Sapra and Shri R.C. Ahuja, both Directors in the Lok Sabha Secretariat, were nominated to attend the Conference.

*Nominations for Training under different Institutions:* A short duration tailor-made training course in videography was organised by the Asian Academy of Film and Television, Noida from 25 September to

23 October 2000. Three officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were nominated to attend the Course.

Another Programme on Total Quality Management in Library and Information Services was organised in Lucknow from 10 to 12 October 2000. Shri M.K. Dubey, Joint Director, was nominated to attend the Programme.

A Workshop on Disinvestment and Reforms of Public Sector Enterprises was organised by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad in collaboration with the Indian Oil Institute of Petroleum Management, Gurgaon and the Shastri Indo-Candian Institute, New Delhi, at Gurgaon from 27 to 29 December 2000. Shri S. Bal Sekhar, Director, Shri R.C. Kakkar, Under Secretary, Shri Raj Kumar, Under Secretary and Shri T.G. Chandrasekhar, Assistant Director were nominated to attend the Workshop.

*Study Visits:* Nine Study visits were organised for participants from various training/educational institutions.

# PRIVILEGE ISSUES

## RAJYA SABHA

*Alleged ill-treatment meted out to a member by the security personnel posted at Raj Bhawan, Chennai:* On 13 May 1997, Shri S. Muthu Mani, member, gave a notice of question of privilege against the security personnel posted at the official residence of the Governor of Tamil Nadu at Chennai for allegedly ill-treating him.

The member stated that on 25 April 1997, a procession was taken out in Chennai by members of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in protest against the publication of a photograph in some newspapers/magazines, allegedly showing Dr. J. Jayalalitha, the party's General-Secretary with cadres of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). After the procession, a Delegation of the AIADMK proposed to submit a memorandum to the Governor of Tamil Nadu in this regard since the persons depicted in the impugned photograph were not LTTE cadres but two advocates of the party. The Governor's Secretariat had granted permission to the Delegation to meet the Governor.

The member alleged that he was prevented from entering the *Raj Bhawan* by the security personnel belonging to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He told them that he was one of the delegates authorized by the AIADMK party to meet the Governor and since other members had already gone inside, he might also be permitted to join his colleagues. The security personnel still prevented him from going inside even after they identified him.

Due to the urgency of the situation and because he was permitted by senior police officials to meet the Governor, he tried to proceed further but the CRPF officials allegedly pulled him by his collar and he was pushed down forcibly. One of the police personnel also tore off his photograph from his Parliament Identity Card. However, he was permitted to go inside about half an hour later after he staged a *dharna* at the same place but by that time his colleagues had returned after presenting the memorandum to the Governor. The member contended that he was deeply aggrieved on being prevented from discharging his political duty as a member of Parliament.

On 15 May 1997, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee of Privileges, after hearing in person Dr. Trinath Mishra the Director-General, CRPF in person and after examining the material on record, in their forty-fifth report presented to the House on 15 December 2000, *inter alia* reported that two Delegations were allowed in, as per directions of the (ADC) to the Governor and local police authorities. The third Delegation of which Shri Muthu Mani was a member, was not allowed in, as per directions received by the CRPF personnel and was stopped at the dropgate. While denying that any disrespect was shown to Shri Muthu Mani, the Director-General, CRPF informed the Committee that the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Guindy, Chennai was present there and was controlling the situation. Shri Muthu Mani was allowed to enter after consultation with the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

The Committee observed that it appeared that due to security related administrative reasons, another Delegation of which Shri Muthu Mani was a member, was denied entry by the police officers.

The Committee were of the view that since the member was present in connection with a programme of his political party, it could not be said that he was in any way performing any parliamentary duty. As such, preventing his entry by lawful means could not be deemed to constitute a breach of his parliamentary privilege.

It was observed that the internal administrative enquiry conducted by the CRPF could not establish the occurrence of the incident. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Committee accepted the statement of the Director-General of CRPF at face value.

In view of the apology tendered by the Director-General, CRPF, the Committee recommended that there was no need to pursue the matter further.

The Committee, however, felt that such incidents happen due to lack of dissemination down to the level of field staff of guidelines/ instructions for dealing with the people and public representatives .

The Committee recommended that the Government should reiterate these guidelines and ensure that they reach the lowest level of functionaries in the law enforcing agencies so that all people, including public representatives, get due respect from them and are treated with utmost care, within the provisions of law and considerations of security.

No further action was taken by the House in the matter.

*Alleged misleading of a Parliamentary Committee and thereby of the House by the Finance Secretary:* On 27 August 1996, Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, a member, gave a notice of question of privilege against Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the then Finance Secretary alleging that his deposition before a Sub-Committee of the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy regarding the status of the Counter-Guarantee given for the Dabhol Power Project and Ib Valley Project, was contradictory to the replies, to Starred Question Nos. 128 and 139 dated 18 July 1996, given by the Minister of Power.

The member contended that since the Report of the Committee on Energy containing *inter alia* the said deposition of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, was laid on the Table of the House, the House as much was misled through the Finance Secretary's submission.

The notice of the member was forwarded to Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the then Finance Secretary for his comments.

In their reply, the Ministry of Finance stated that the Counter-Guarantee of the Government of India for both the projects was in respect of payment obligations of the concerned State Electricity Boards in the context of the respective Power Purchase Agreements (PPA). Further, as per the clause provided in the Counter-Guarantee of the Government of India, if the PPA for the project in question was under revision, the Counter-Guarantee which applies to payment obligations under the PPA would not be valid for the revised PPA unless the revised PPA was also approved by the Government of India for the specific purposes of the Counter-Guarantee. The Ministry of Finance also clarified that while the Government of Maharashtra had announced its decision for cancellation of the Dabhol Power Project, the PPA between Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and the Company was not terminated and as such the Counter-Guarantee for the Project remained valid before and after the cancellation. Certain amendments to the PPA proposed by the Government of Maharashtra were subsequently approved by the Government of India. The Ministry of Finance contended that in these circumstances, there appears to be no contradiction between the statements made by the Finance Secretary and the Power Minister.

Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, to whom the reply of the Ministry of Finance was sent for information, in his letter dated 28 September 1996, further alleged that in the re-negotiated agreement between the Government of Maharashtra and the Dabhol Power Company, the physical

and financial project parameters such as capacity, fuel, capital cost, tariff, etc. were changed drastically and contended that the contention of the Ministry that "the Counter-Guarantee for the project remained valid before and after cancellation" was totally contradictory to the deposition of the Finance Secretary.

The matter was again taken up with Shri Ahluwalia, who submitted that his statement before the Sub-Committee on Energy was intended to communicate that if the PPA was re-negotiated and amended without prior approval of the Government of India, then the Counter-Guarantee of the Government of India would not have applied to any obligation arising out of the re-negotiated PPA unless prior written approval was obtained. He further clarified that implications of cancellation were somewhat different from the implication of re-negotiation of the PPA.

The member, in his letter dated 3 December 1996, addressed to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, stuck to his earlier contention that the impugned deposition of the Finance Secretary before the Committee was contradictory to the replies to Starred Question Nos. 128 and 139 given by the Minister of Power and requested the Chairman to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges for detailed examination, investigation and report.

On 4 March 1997, the Chairman referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee formulated the following two issues for consideration:–

(i) Whether the deposition of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the then Finance Secretary before a Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy regarding the status of the Counter-Guarantee given for the Dabhol Power Project and Ib Valley Project, was contradictory to the replies of Starred Question Nos. 128 and 139 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18 July 1996 by the Minister of Power; and

(ii) In case the replies were contradictory, whether there was any intention to mislead the Committee or the House, as the concerned report of the Committee on Energy containing *inter alia* the said deposition was laid on the Table of the House?

The Committee of Privileges, after examining the material on record, in their forty-fourth report presented to the House on 18 December 2000, reported *inter alia* that the Counter-Guarantee of the

Government of India for both the power projects was in respect of payment obligations of the concerned State Electricity Boards in the context of the respective PPA. As per the provision made in the Counter Guarantee of Government of India, no amendment to the PPA having an impact on or affecting the capacity payments, energy payments, and termination payments, etc., could be made without the prior approval of the Guarantor, *i.e.* the Government of India.

Thus, if the PPA for the projects in question was under revision, the Counter-Guarantee which applied to payment obligations under the PPA would not be valid for the revised Power Purchase Agreement unless the revised PPA was also approved by the Government of India for the specific purposes of the Counter-Guarantee.

The PPA between the MSEB and the Dabhol Power Company (DPC) remained valid despite cancellation of the Dabhol Power Project by the Government of Maharashtra. The Counter-Guarantee for the Project, therefore, remained valid before and after cancellation. Certain amendments proposed to the PPA by the Government of Maharashtra were subsequently approved by the Government of India.

The Committee observed that though, during his disposition before the Sub-Committee, a specific question was put to Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the then Finance Secretary about the status of the Counter-Guarantee in respect of the Projects given by the Government of India, his reply, 'As of today if the PPA is being revised, that means the Counter-Guarantee is not effective' appeared to be general, conveying the condition stipulated in the Guarantee, *i.e.* the Counter-Guarantee did not remain valid in relation to the changed PPA if the PPA was changed. Shri Ahluwalia did not say categorically that the Counter-Guarantee for the Dabhol Power Project was not effective because the PPA in respect of the Project was being revised.

The Committee also observed that the matter had legal and technical ramifications and different perceptions might sometimes arise in such matters. The Committee felt that Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia had explained the differences in perception in reasonable terms to them.

The Committee concluded that there was no intention on the part of Shri Ahluwalia to deliberately mislead the Committee and thereby the House. Therefore, the Committee, recommended to the House that no case of breach of Privilege was made out and that the matter be dropped.

No further action was taken by the House in the matter.

*Alleged filing of false FIR against Shri Sakshiji Maharaj, a member and alleged misbehaviour with him by the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah, U.P.:* On 2 August 2000, Shri Shakshiji Maharaj, member, addressed a communication to the Chairman stating that on 1 August 2000, due to political malice, a false FIR involving sections of IPC related to theft, intimidation, rape etc. had been lodged against him at Kotwali (City), Etah, Uttar Pradesh. He requested the Chairman to obtain a copy of the FIR from the District Magistrate, Etah, by fax and allow him to raise the matter during 'Zero Hour'.

The same day, the member raised the matter in the House and drew the attention of the House towards a news item regarding an FIR lodged against him for kidnapping, theft, dacoity, intimidation and rape in the Kotwali (City), Etah, Uttar Pradesh, which had appeared on that day in some newspapers. The member further stated that he could not get a copy of the FIR despite much efforts. The member *inter alia* alleged that the District Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Etah, besides misbehaving with and abusing him, had also threatened to kill him.

Thereupon, many members demanded that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges. The Chairman referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee formulated the following two issues for consideration:-

(i) Whether FIR lodged against Shri Sakshiji Maharaj was false as alleged by him and whether the Chairman or the House should intervene in the matter of non providing of a copy of the FIR filed against him; and

(ii) Whether the District Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police misbehaved with the member and whether any privilege of the member or of the House was involved in the matter.

On 15 December 2000, the Committee, after considering both the issues separately, submitted their report to the House; In this forty-sixth Report, as regards the issue of filing of an allegedly false FIR against Shri Sakshiji Maharaj, the Committee observed that it was beyond their jurisdiction to adjudicate whether an FIR is true or false. The investigation was on and the law would take its own course. Therefore, the Committee, did not wish to interfere with the due process of law and sit in judgement when the matter was within the jurisdiction of a Court of Law.

Insofar as the member's complaint that he could not get a copy of the FIR despite several efforts was concerned, the Committee were of the view that the legal provision immediately applicable was section 154 Cr.PC which provides that a copy of the FIR was to be supplied to the informant. When proceedings were duly instituted before a Magistrate, an accused was entitled to a copy of the FIR under section 207 Cr.PC. The Committee observed that a judicial remedy was available in such matters, and even before that stage was reached, it was open to a member of the public to apply for and obtain copies of public documents.

As regards, the alleged misbehaviour by the concerned District Magistrate and the Senior Superintendent of Police with the member, the Committee noted that the allegation did not appear to relate to him in his capacity as a member of Parliament. It was not being urged that the attempt constituted an effort to prevent Shri Sakshiji Maharaj from discharging his duties as a member of Parliament in any way. As such, no contempt of Parliament or breach of privilege of a member was involved.

The Committee were of the view that in matters not connected with the House, even though the happening of such things was unfortunate, the remedy was at the official level. The privileges enjoyed by a member of Parliament were available only for the discharge of his parliamentary duties. In other matters, he was also to abide by the law of the land and take recourse to remedies available to any citizen, if he felt his rights had been infringed. The instant matter did not involve a person in his capacity as a member of Parliament nor did it impede his right to free speech and participation in the discharge of his duties as such. The law provided judicial remedy to the complainant.

In view of the facts above, the Committee recommended that the matter may be filed.

No further action was taken by the House in the matter.

# 8

# PROCEDURAL MATTERS

## LOK SABHA

*Decision relating to increase in the number of matters permitted to be raised under Rule 377 and to reduce the length of the text of the notices:* At a meeting between the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Leaders of Parties/Groups held on 19 November 2000, it was decided, on an experimental basis, to increase the number of matters to be raised under Rule 377 from 12 to 15 per day and to reduce the text of the notices from 250 words to about 150 words, without any prejudice to provisions of Rules regulating the conditions of admissibility, etc. of such notices. The decision was made effective from 27 November 2000.

*Instance when the Chair, as a special case, allowed members, whose names were not included in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions:* On 24 November 2000, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi permitted three members, Sarvashri Vijay Goel, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Chandra Shekhar, whose names were not included in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motion regarding the situation arising out of the closing down of various small and cottage industries to the non-revision of the Master Plan of Delhi.

*Instance when the issue regarding the reported resignation of the Union Ministers was allowed to be discussed under Rule 184:* On 4 December 2000, at about 12.20 hrs., Shri S. Jaipal Reddy raised the issue regarding the reported resignation of three Union Ministers, Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti, who were charge-sheeted in the Babri-Masjid demolition case. He also pressed for a discussion under Rule 184, to which he had already tabled a notice. At 12.31 hrs., some members of the Congress Party came to the well of the House and started shouting slogans. As pandemonium prevailed, at 12.33 hrs., the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, adjourned the House till 14.00 hrs.

When the House re-assembled at 14.01 hrs., members of the Opposition came to the well of the House and raised the same issue and continued to interrupt the proceedings of the House. Amidst interruption, some members raised matters under Rule 377. As interruption continued, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, observed that the rest of the matters under Rule 377 listed for the day would be treated as laid on the Table. At 14.09 hrs., the Speaker adjourned the House for the day.

On 5 December 2000, after Question Hour, members of the Opposition came to the well of the House, and raised the same issue. As interruption continued, at 12.04 hrs., the Speaker, adjourned the house for the day.

No business could be transacted on 6, 7, and 8 December 2000, due to continued interruptions on the same issue. On 11 December 2000, as soon as the House met, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observed:

> Honourable members, Sharvashri S. Jaipal Raddy, Raashid Alvi, G.M. Banatwalla, Basu Deb Acharia, Hannan Mollah, Rupchand Pal, Somnath Chatterjee, Moinul Hassan and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh have given notices of a Motion under Rule 184 which is in the nature of a Censure Motion against Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti, all Ministers, on the ground that charges had been framed against them by the trial court in a criminal case. All the notices seek removal of the three Ministers from the Council of Ministers.
>
> I have since obtained the facts in the matter from the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to them, the matter is presently pending before the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court in a revision petition filed against the order dated 9 September 1997, of the Special Judge, Lucknow. The Ministry have stated that the matter is *sub judice.*
>
> As per the provisions of rule 186 relating to admissibility of notices of motions, a notice under rule 184 to be admissible "shall be restricted to a matter of recent occurrence" [rule 186 (iv)] and "shall not relate to any matter which is under

adjudication by a Court of Law having jurisdiction in any part of India" [rule 186 (viii)].

Further, according to 'Kaul and Shakdher' (at page 671, 5th Edition) a Censure Motion seeking to drop a Minister from the Council of Ministers is inadmissible as the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

Since the matter has been pending in court since 1997, all the notices under rule 184 are liable to be disallowed under rule 186 (iv) for relating to a matter which is not of a recent occurrence and rule 186 (viii) for pertaining to a matter which is *sub judice* and also for being against the principle of collective responsibility as stated above.

As the Speaker of this august House, I am duty bound to follow and enforce the rules which have been given to me by the House. At the same time, it is also my duty to ensure that the business of the House is transacted in an orderly manner.

The manner in which the proceedings of the House have been stalled during the past week has really pained me. In my sincere desire to resolve this position of stalemate, I have two proposals to place before the House.

First, the honourable members desirous of having a discussion on the matter may give notices in appropriate form which are admissible under the Rules so that the House can take up discussion thereon at an appropriate time.

Alternatively, as all of you are aware, the House is supreme in procedural matters, so much so that it can suspend the Rules, if circumstances so demand. In the larger interest of the institution and for resolving the present deadlock, I would not like to stand in the way of any discussion under any rule if all sections of the House were agreeable to suspension of relevant Rules on a proper Motion to that effect, to enable a discussion on the matter.

While discussing the matter, the House will, however, have to ensure that nothing is said during the debate which may prejudice the course of justice in any manner.

The deadlock on the issue continued on 11 and 12 December too. In order to resolve the deadlock, on 12 December 2000, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, convened a meeting of Leaders of Parties and Groups in the Lok Sabha and it was unanimously agreed to discuss the matter in the House.

Accordingly, the Motion under Rule 184 was discussed on 13 and 14 December 2000 and the same was negatived on 14 December 2000, after division.

*A member should not wear placards in the Chamber:* On 15 December 2000, as soon as the House met, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, member, came to the well of the House wearing placards. The Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed who was in the Chair, observed that the member was not permitted to wear placards in the Chamber. Thereafter, Shri Rajesh Ranjan withdrew to his seat and removed the placards.

*Instance when consent was withheld since the subject matter was not appropriate enough to adjourn the entire business of the House:* On 28 November 2000, after the Question Hour, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, member, raised the issue regarding providing relief to the flood-affected people in West Bengal of which he had given a notice of Adjournment Motion. Thereupon, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, observed:

> Honourable members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion on devastating flood and natural calamity of severe nature in West Bengal from Sarvashri Moinul Hassan, Nikhilananda Sar, Subodh Roy, Lakshman Seth, Mahboob Zahedi, Basu Deb Acharia, Sunil Khan, Somnath Chatterjee, Rupchand Pal, Hannan Mollah, Anil Basu and Ajay Chakraborty, all members.
>
> Adjournment Motion is an extraordinary device which, if admitted, leads to setting aside the normal business of the House for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. Though the subject is important enough to merit discussion in the House, I do not consider it appropriate to adjourn the entire business for this purpose. Therefore, I have disallowed the notices.

> I may, however, inform the members that I have received on the same subject, notices under Rule 193 from several members. A meeting of the Business Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held this afternoon. The Business Advisory Committee may decide the manner in which and the time when a discussion on the subject may be taken up.

*A member cannot cross-examine a Minister:* On 28 November 2000, at about 16.26 hrs., when the Minister of Labour, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, was replying to the discussion on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2000, Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, member, sought some clarifications and continued to interrupt the Minister's speech. Thereupon, the Chairman, Shri P.H. Pandian, observed:

> "... A member cannot cross-examine a Minister. It amounts to cross-examination ... you cannot straightaway cross-examine a Minister in the House."
>
> Thereafter, the Minister resumed his speech.

*Instance when a member was allowed to quote from a book:* On 12 December 2000, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, member, intimated that he would quote a few lines from a book written by Shri A.G. Noorani while speaking on a Motion regarding calling upon the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to drop the three Cabinet Ministers who were charge-sheeted in the Babri Masjid demolition case. The member referred to and quoted from Shri Noorani's book and other publications which were allowed to go on records. Neither the member insisted nor was there any demand from the House to lay the documents on the Table.

*Instance when the Speaker acceded to a request from a member who had secured first position in a ballot to move Adjournment Motion to permit another member to move the same Motion:* On 22 November 2000, at about 11.05 hrs., the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi informed the House that he had given his consent to moving of Adjournment Motion regarding the severe crisis faced by the farming community due to the burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices. The notices were given by Shri Sujan Singh Bundela and 76 other members. Shri Sujan Singh Bundela, member, who had

secured the first position in the ballot, meanwhile, requested that the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi who had also given notice of Adjournment Motion on the same subject might be permitted to seek leave of the House to move the Adjournment Motion in his place and the Speaker acceded to his request. Accordingly, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi sought leave of the House to move the Motion. As no objection was taken, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, informed that leave was granted and directed that discussion be taken up at 14.00 hrs. The Adjournment Motion was discussed for 6 hours and 53 minutes. It was negatived after division.

*Instance when the member, in whose name Calling Attention was listed called attention of the Minister, but due to interruptions in the House, the Speaker asked the Minister to lay the Statement:* On 21 December 2000, Shri Naresh Puglia, member, in whose name Calling Attention regarding the non-clearance of developmental projects was listed in the List of Business, called the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri T.R. Balu. But, due to continuous interruptions in the House, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi asked the Minister to lay the Statement on the Table of the House. No clarificatory questions could be asked.

*Instance when a document was not treated as paper laid on the Table:* On 19 December 2000, while speaking on the Enron Power Project during the Zero Hour, Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, member, referred to and quoted from the document 'Testimony by Linda F. Powers, the Vice-President, Global Finance of Enron Development Corporation before the Committee on Appropriations – the Sub-committee on Foreign Operations, the U.S. House of Representatives' and handed over the document at the Table. Since there was no demand for laying of the document and the member had already drawn the attention of the House to the subject which had formed part of the proceedings, the document was not treated as paper laid on the Table and was filed.

## RAJYA SABHA

*Instance of vacation of seat by a member, for absence without permission of the House for a period of sixty days or more:*

Shri Barjinder Singh Hamdard, a member of the Rajya Sabha from Punjab, remained absent without permission of the House for a period of more than sixty days. Subsequently, on 21 December 2000, on a Motion adopted by the Rajya Sabha, his seat was declared vacant under art. 101(4).

# PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## (1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and as such the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

*—Editor*

## INDIA

### DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

*Sessions of Parliament:* The Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and the Hundred and Ninety-first Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 20 November 2000. Both the Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 22 December 2000 and were prorogued by the President the same day.

*By-election results:* In a by-election held on 29 September 2000, Smt. Rama Pilot of Indian National Congress won the Dausa Lok Sabha seat defeating Shri R. Kumar of BJP by over 60,000 votes.

*Expansion of Union Cabinet:* On 7 November 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expanded the Union Council of Ministers. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Kumari Uma Bharati: *Minister of State of Youth Affairs and Sports;* Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri (Independent charge): *Road Transport and Highways.*

*Reallocation of Portfolios:* On 7 November 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee reallocated some of the portfolios in the Union Cabinet. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Sunderlal Patwa: *Mines;* Shri Arun Jaitley: *Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs,* to hold additional Charge of the Ministry of Shipping; Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa: *Chemicals and Fertilizers*; Shri Hukum Narayan Yadav: *Minister of State in the Ministry of*

*Shipping;* and Shri Arun Shourie: *Department of Disinvestment in the PMO (Independent Charge).*

On 25 October 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee assumed the additional charge of the *Ministry of Surface Transport.*

*Rajya Sabha seat declared vacant:* On 21 December 2000, the Rajya Sabha declared the seat of an Independent member, Shri Barjinder Singh Hamdard vacant for his being absent from the House for a period of more than 60 days without permission.

*Resignation of Minister:* On 14 November 2000, the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Haren Pathak resigned from office.

*Ministry bifurcated:* On 9 November 2000, the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) 1961 was amended to bifurcate the Ministry of Surface Transport. Accordingly, the Ministry of Surface Transport was renamed as the *Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.*

*Member expelled from Party:* On 30 October 2000, the Samajwadi Party (SP) expelled Shri Sarvaraj Singh, M.P., from the Aonla (Bareilly) constituency, from the party, for indulging in anti-party activities.

*Split in Janata Dal (U):* A separate group named as the *Jana Shakti* was formed following a split in the Janata Dal (U) with the Union Communications Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and three other party members of the Lok Sabha breaking away from it.

*National Party Status:* On 29 December 2000, the CPI(M) regained its national party status following amendments liberalising the Election Symbol Order issued by the Election Commission.

*Death of Member:* On 3 December 2000, Shri Chaudhary Chunni Lal, a sitting member of the Rajya Sabha belonging to the BJP passed away.

*Death of former Ministers:* On 24 October 2000, Shri Sitaram Kesri, former Union Minister, passed away.

On 7 November 2000, Shri C. Subramaniam, former Union Minister passed away.

## AROUND THE STATES

### ANDHRA PRADESH

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 5 November 2000, the Chief Minister,

Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu expanded the State Cabinet by inducting Smt. Uma Madhav Reddy as Cabinet Minister.

*Death of Minister:* On 25 December 2000, the Minister of State for Marketing, Shri Veera Reddy, passed away.

## BIHAR

*Break up in Alliance:* On 5 November 2000, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (Soren) severed its ties with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the State level after the latter rejected its demand for installing Shri Soren as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

*Resignation of Minister:* On 19 December 2000, the Minister of State for Higher Education, Shri Ramdas Rai resigned from office.

## CHHATTISGARH

*Political developments:* On 1 November 2000, the State of Chhattisgarh came into existence. Shri Dinesh Nandan Sahay was sworn in as the Governor and Shri Ajit Jogi was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the State.

On 12 November 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Ajit Jogi constituted the State Cabinet by inducting fifteen Cabinet Ministers and eight Ministers of State.

On 13 December 2000, Shri Rajendra Prasad Shukla of the Indian National Congress was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

## GOA

*Political developments*: On 3 October 2000, a No-Confidence Motion against the Fransisco Sardinha Government was defeated in the Legislative Assembly.

On 21 October 2000, Shri Fransisco Sardinha's Government was reduced to a minority when its coalition partner, the BJP, withdrew its support and decided to stake its claim to form a Government.

*New Chief Minister:* On 24 October 2000, Shri Manohar Parrikar of the BJP was sworn in as the new Chief Minister following the resignation of Shri Fransisco Sardinha. Shri Ravi S. Naik assumed charge as the Deputy Chief Minister. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

Shri Ramakant Khalap: *Irrigation and Information Technology*; Shri Digambar Kamat: *Power;* Shri Shaikh Hassan Haroon: *Industries;*

Shri Prakash Shankar Velip: *Cooperation*; Shri Pandurang D. Naik: *Transport;* Shri Suresh Kuso Amonkar: *Health;* Shri Sanjay Bandekar: *Civil Supplies and Sports*; Shri Prakash J. Phadte: *Town and Country Planning;* Shri Manohar Azgaonkar: *Panchayati Raj*; Shri Philip Neri Rodrigues: *Tourism;* Shri Jose Philip D'Souza: *Revenue,* and Shri Ramrao G. Dessai: *Agriculture.*

On 9 November 2000, Shri Manohar Parriker's Government won a vote of confidence in the Assembly.

*Split in Goa People's Congress*: A new group headed by Shri Somnath Zuwarkar was formed when the Goa People's Congress Party split with four of its MLAs breaking away from it.

*Change of party affiliation:* On 20 December 2000, Shri Alexio Sequeira, MLA, belonging to the People's Congress (Venkatesh), joined the Congress.

## GUJARAT

*Resignation of Minister:* On 12 November 2000, the Minister of Health and Civil Supply, Shri Ashok Bhatt resigned from office.

*Minister dropped:* On 20 December 2000, the Minister of Narmada Development and Major Irrigation, Shri Jay Narain Vyas was dropped from the State Cabinet following differences with the Chief Minister, Shri Keshubhai Patel.

## HARYANA

*MLA unseated:* On 10 November 2000, the Punjab and Haryana High Court unseated Shri Kartar Singh Bhadana, MLA belonging to the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) representing the Samalkha constituency, terming his election as illegal and unconstitutional. Shri Hari Singh Nalva of the Indian National Congress was declared elected in his place.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

*New Governor:* On 3 November 2000, Shri Suraj Bhan was sworn in as the new Governor.

## JHARKHAND

*Political developments*: On 15 November 2000, the State of Jharkhand came into existence. Shri Prabhat Kumar was sworn in as the Governor and Shri Babulal Marandi, belonging to the NDA, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the State.

On 16 November 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Babulal Marandi constituted the State Council of Ministers. The Ministers are:

*Cabinet Ministers:* Shri Ramachandra Kesri; Shri Lal Chand Mahato; Shri Sudesh Mahato; Shri Madhu Singh; Shri Jaba Manjhi; and Shri Samresh Singh.

*Ministers of State:* Shri Ramesh Singh Munda; Shri Jaleshwa Mahato; Shri Bachena Singh; and Shri Baidyanath Ram.

On 1 December 2000, the Chief Minister further expanded the Cabinet. The new Ministers are:

*Cabinet Ministers:* Shri Yamuna Singh; Shri Devdayal Kushwaha; Shri Mrigendra Pratap Singh; Shri Ramji Lal Sarda; Shri Devidhar Besra; Shri Chandramohan Prasad; Shri Raghuvar Das; Shri Arjun Munda; Shri Pashupati Nath Singh; and Shri Sadhnu Bhagat.

*Ministers of State:* Shri Pradeep Yadav; Shri Ravindra Rao; Shri Sudershan Bhagat; Shri Dinesh Shadangi; Shri Neelkanth Singh Munda; and Shri Madhu Koda.

*Election of Speaker:* On 22 November 2000, Shri Inder Singh Namdhari of Janata Dal (U) was elected unanimously as the first Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Vote of Confidence:* On 23 November 2000, the Babulal Marandi Government won a vote of confidence in the Assembly.

## KARNATAKA

*MLA expelled from party:* On 20 October 2000, the State unit of BJP expelled two MLAs, Kumari A. Manju and Dr. Bharati Shankar, from the Party for indulging in anti-party activities.

*Death of former Chief Minister:* On 12 December 2000, former Chief Minister, Shri J.H. Patel passed away.

## MANIPUR

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 19 October 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Nipamacha Singh expanded the State Council of Ministers by inducting two new Ministers, Shri L. Jayanta Kumar and Shri N. Zatawn.

## MIZORAM

*New Deputy Speaker.* On 10 October 2000, Shri Lalathankunga of the Mizo National Front was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

*Resignation of Governor:* On 21 November 2000, the Governor, Shri A. Padmanabhan, resigned from office. The Governor of Manipur, Shri Ved Prakash Marwah, was appointed as officiating Governor.

## PONDICHERRY

*Minister dropped:* On 10 December 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri P. Shanmugham dropped the PWD Minister, Shri P. Kannan from the State Cabinet for violating the principle of collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers.

*Withdrawal of support:* On 23 December 2000, four MLAs withdrew their support to the Congress-Tamil Maanila Congress Coalition, leaving the Government in crisis.

## PUNJAB

*Expansion of Cabinet:* On 24 December 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Parkash Singh Badal expanded the State Council of Ministers by inducting Shri Satya Pal Sahni as a Minister of State.

## UTTARANCHAL

*Political developments:* On 8 November 2000, the new State of Uttaranchal came into existence. Shri Surjit Singh Barnala was sworn in as the Governor and Shri Nityanand Swamy of BJP was sworn in as the Chief Minister.

On 10 November 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Nityanand Swamy constituted his 12-member Council of Ministers. The new Ministers and their portfolios are:

*Cabinet Ministers:* Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiari: *Energy, Irrigation and Parliamentary Affairs*; Shri Kedar Singh Phonia: *Tourism, Industrial Development, Science and Technology and Labour and Social Welfare*; Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank': *Finance, Institutional Finance and Taxes;* Shri Marabar Singh Kandari: *Forests and Environment;* Shri Mohan Singh Rawat: *Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Irrigation;* Shri Ajay Bhatt: *Medical and Health Services;* Shri Bansidhar Bhagat: *Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Cooperatives, Sugarcane Development and Sugar Industries;* and Shri Ram Das Narayan: *Small Scale Industries and Social Welfare;*

*Ministers of State*; Shri Narayan Singh Rana: *Culture, Sainik Shiksha, Drinking Water and Sports;* Shri Tirath Singh Rawat: *Primary Education, Secondary Education, Adult Education and Elections;* Shri Suresh Arya:

*Transport, Food and Civil Supplies*; and Smt. Nirupma Gaur: *Urban Development, Housing, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.*

## UTTAR PRADESH

*New Chief Minister:* On 25 October 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri R.K. Gupta resigned from office. Shri Rajnath Singh was sworn in as the new Chief Minister on 28 October 2000.

*New Governor:* On 24 November 2000, Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri was sworn in as the new Governor.

*MLAs expelled from party:* On 30 October 2000, the Samajwadi Party expelled Shri Abdul Khaliq, MLA from the Party for indulging in anti-party activities.

On 30 December 2000, the Samajwadi Party expelled two more MLAs, Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat and Sarwar Ali Khan from the Party for indulging in anti-party activities.

*Death of MLA:* Shri Nirbhay Pal Sharma, belonging to the BJP, was gunned down by unidentified assailants on 6 November 2000.

## WEST BENGAL

*New Chief Minister:* On 29 October 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu resigned from office.

Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya was sworn in as the new Chief Minister on 6 November 2000.

# DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

## CANADA

*Election results:* On 28 November 2000, the Liberal Party won 172 seats and the Conservative Canadian Alliance won 62 seats in the elections to the House of Commons.

## CHINA (TAIWAN)

*New Prime Minister:* On 4 October 2000, the Taiwanese President, Mr. Chen Shui-Bian appointed the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Chang Chun-HSiung as the new Prime Minister.

## ISRAEL

*Resignation of Prime Minister:* On 10 December 2000, the Prime

Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak resigned from office. However, he will remain in office pending fresh elections.

## JAPAN

*Resignation of Speaker:* On 18 October 2000, the Speaker of the Upper House, Mr. Juro Saito resigned from office. Mr. Yutaka Inoue was elected the new Speaker.

## LUXEMBOURG

*New Grand Duke:* On 8 October 2000, Grand Duke, Jean, Head of the State for 36 years, handed over the charge to his eldest son, Prince Henri.

## PERU

*Political developments:* On 22 November 2000, the President, Mr. Alberto Fujimori was ousted by the 82-member Parliament on grounds of "moral incapacity".

On 23 November 2000, the Congress elected Mr. Velentin Paniagua as interim President. Mr. Paniagua immediately named Mr. Javier Perez de Cueller as Prime Minister and head of a Cabinet of "Unity of National Reconciliation".

## PHILIPPINES

*Impeachment of President*: On 13 November 2000, the President of Philippines, Mr. Joseph Estrada, accused of taking $ 8 million in bribes from illegal gambling operators, was impeached by the House of Representatives.

## POLAND

*President re-elected :* On 9 October 2000, Mr. Alexander Kwasniewski was re-elected as the President.

## SRI LANKA

*Death of former Prime Minister:* On 10 October 2000, the former Prime Minister, Smt. Sirimavo Bandaranaike passed away.

*Political developments:* The President, Smt. Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling People's Alliance (PA) Party won 109 seats in the elections to the 225-member Parliament held on 11 October 2000. The opposition United National Party (UNP) led by Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe won 90 seats,

the Uttra Left wing Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and others won 10 and 16 seats, respectively.

On 12 October 2000, the President, Smt. Kumaratunga invited the People's Alliance, the largest single party, to form the Government. The People's Alliance formed a coalition government with the support of the National Unity Alliance and Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), which together had 8 seats. One independent also gave his support to the Government.

*New Prime Minister:* On 13 October 2000, Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayake was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

*Election of Speaker:* On 17 October 2000, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, belonging to the opposition United National Party, was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the House.

*Death of Minister:* On 22 November 2000, the Deputy Health Minister, Mr. Lionel Gunawardene passed away.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

*Election results:* The Prime Minister, Mr. Basdeo Pandey of the United National Congress won the elections held on 20 December 2000.

## U.K.

*New Speaker.* On 24 October 2000, the British House of Commons elected Mr. Michael Martin as the new Speaker by 370 to 8 votes.

## USA

*Political developments:* The Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections as also elections to the Senate and the House of Representatives were held on 7 November 2000.

On 8 November 2000, the Presidential election result was put on hold and votes in the State of Florida were taken up for recount as the first count was "too close to call". Mr. George W. Bush had polled 2,909,136 votes and Mr. Al Gore 2,907,351 votes. Amidst several court challengers, on 27 November 2000, Florida Secretary of State, Ms. Katherine Hanis declared Mr. George W. Bush of the Republican Party the winner of the Presidential elections in the State by a margin of 537 votes giving all the 25 electoral votes from the State in his favour. Later, following the Supreme Court's decision to go by the laid done constitutional Provisions with respect to the Presidential elections, Mr. George W. Bush was declared elected the President and Mr. Dick

Cheney as the Vice-President. In the elections to the 100-members Senate, the Republican Party and the Democrat Party won 50 seats each. In the 435 members House of Representatives, there are 220 Republicans, 210 Democrats, and 2 Independents while there are 3 vacancies.

## YUGOSLAVIA

*Resignation of Prime Minister:* On 9 October 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Momir Bulatovic resigned from office.

*New Government :* On 5 November 2000, the Parliament of Yugoslavia approved a new Federal Government.

# 10

# SESSIONAL REVIEW

## LOK SABHA

### FIFTH SESSION

The Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 20 November 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 22 December 2000. The House was later prorogued on the same day. In all, there were 25 sittings. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 20 November to 22 December 2000 is given below:

### A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

*Discussion on motion under Rule 184 regarding prima facie charges against three Union Ministers on the issue of demolition of Babri Masjid:* Initiating the discussion on the motion allowed under Rule 184, which called upon the Prime Minister to drop three Ministers – Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharti – against whom *prima facie* charges were found to exist for their involvement in the demolition of the Babri Masjid and also disapproved the stand of the Prime Minister to exonerate the three Ministers, on 13 December 2000, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy of Indian National Congress said that according to the CBI, the three Ministers were involved in a criminal conspiracy to have the *Masjid* demolished. The Sessions Court, after hearing both the CBI Counsel and Counsels of the accused, found a *prima facie* case in all the charge-sheets against the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani and others.

The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and the Minister of Shipping, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the charge-sheet was politically motivated. He appealed to the House to reject the Motion to censure the Ministers.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Somnath Chatterjee of Communist

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Devendra Singh Yadav, Amar Roy Pradhan, Trilochan Kanungo, S.S. Palanimanickam, Capt. (Retd.) Inder Singh, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Dr. Girija Vyas

Party of India (M) said that it was everyone's duty to stand by the Constitution, by the country and the people, all of which had been under a very serious attack by a dangerous combination of communal and fundamentalist elements.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav of Samajwadi Party said that the root cause of the entire *Ayodhya* dispute was the wrong polices adopted by the Congress Party.

Kumari Mayawati of Bahujan Samaj Party felt that the Treasury Benches and Opposition parties were equally responsible for the episode.

Opposing the Motion, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete of Shiv Sena said that the case of *Ram Mandir* was *sub judice* and what was demolished was the disputed structure at Ayodhya.

The Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes said that this issue was not a religious one but a national issue.

Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam supported the Motion and asked the Prime Minister to explain what was the national sentiment behind constructing the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Participating in the discussion on 14 December 2000, the Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that the Government must prepare an economic package for the minorities also, so that they could stand on their own legs.

Shri Chandra Shekhar of Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) said that the issue of Babri Masjid was a very serious one. The country could not be run if the same situation was allowed to continue.

Opposing the Motion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri Syed Shnawaz Hussain said that Hindus and Muslims had been enjoying equal rights in the country.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu of Telugu Desam Party felt that a duly-elected Government for five years should only talk of development, and an economic package for that purpose.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal cautioned the country about the possibility of a repetition of the incident of 6th December when the Babri Masjid was demolished and which had gone down as a black day in the annals in our country's history.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla of Muslim League Kerala State Committee wondered whether politics, governance or the Government were free from all moral responsibilities when such incidents occur in the country.

The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that he was also among those who condemned the demolition of the structure in Ayodhya and wanted that there should be a limit to judge this issue from an angle purely of party politics.

Replying to the discussion, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy of Indian National Congress said that the Prime Minister and the Law Minister had propounded a new doctrine of constitutional morality. No democratic system could survive through the letter of law. It would survive, flourish and thrive under the spirit of law.

The Motion was negatived.

*Discussion under Rule 193 regarding disinvestment of Public Undertakings:* Initiating the discussion on 19 December 2000, Shri Basu Deb Acharia of Communist Party of India (M) said that the present Government had clearly stated that the share of the Government in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) would be brought down to 26 per cent or even less than 26 per cent. There was a specific recommendation by the Disinvestment Commission that a separate fund should be created out of the amount available by selling the shares of the PSUs but that recommendation had not been implemented yet. There was no transparency in the Government's disinvestment policy and their policy was to do distress sale at any price, he added.

Participating in the discussion* on 20 December 2000, Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that the disinvestment policy had adversely affected our economy.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal wanted to know the reasons for winding up the Disinvestment Commission. He also felt that many PSUs had been sold in haste.

Shri Arun Shourie said that Public Sector workers in almost every sector had one and a half to two times the emoluments of workers in comparable private sector firms in the same industry. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, had decided that the Departmentally Related Standing Committee that oversees the work of the Ministry of Finance would also oversee the work of the Department of Disinvestment. There was also a Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment presided over by the Prime Minister. He appealed to all sections of the House to work together to facilitate a policy that was clear, transparent and open.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kamal Nath, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Ramji Lal Verma, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, P.A. Sangma, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Raashid Alvi, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Prof. (Smt.) A.K. Premajam

*Severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices:* Moving the Adjournment Motion on 22 November 2000, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that the Government had failed on all fronts as far as the agricultural sector was concerned. The crisis in agriculture covered every region of the country. The States of Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh had been devastated by floods which had not evoked even sympathy. In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, the tea, coffee and rubber plantation industry was suffering. The sugar mills everywhere were failing to lift canes. The horticulture and the dairy industry were collapsing in the face of mindless imports. The worst sufferers were the small and marginal farmers. The Government did not seem to be at all concerned about the crisis that had overtaken the agriculture sector. The Plan outlay on agriculture had been slashed by Rs. 500 crore during the year 2000 as compared to the year 1999. Public investment in agriculture had virtually dried up. Credit to agriculture was hopelessly inadequate. Smt. Gandhi called upon the Government to take immediate and specific measures to protect the interests of the farmers.

Participating in the discussion,* Shri Anant Gangaram Geete of Shiv Sena said that the country had become self sufficient in foodgrains, the credit for which should go to the farmers. Yet, the farmers were facing many hardships and they were also not getting remunerative prices for their produce.

Kumari Mayawati of Bahujan Samaj Party said that it was the duty of the Government to take care of the interests of farmers of every State. They should get remunerative prices for their produce and also agricultural inputs at reasonable prices.

Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that the NDA Government had not been able to formulate schemes for the benefit of the farmers and to protect their interests.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the condition of the farmers of the country was pitiable. The hike in prices of diesel and fertilizers had aggravated the burden of the farmers.

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* Others who took part in the discussions were: Sarvashri Anadi Sahu, Mahboob Zahedi, Ramji Lal Suman, Madhavrao Scindia, Brahmanand Mandal, P.A. Sangma, Ramjivan Singh, S. Jaipal Reddy, Prasanna Acharya, Adhi Sankar, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Sahib Singh Verma, Jagmeet Singh Brar, Amar Roy Pradhan, Prabhunath Singh, Avtar Singh Bhadana, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Smt. Renuka Choudhury and Smt. Rama Pilot

Shri G.M. Banatwalla of Muslim League Kerala State Committee said that the liberal, unrestricted subsidised imports of various agricultural commodities at zero or low duty presented the country as a dumping ground for foreign countries.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora of Indian National Lok Dal suggested that in order to make the farmers prosperous, a concrete policy should be framed.

Participating in the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar said that agriculture import did not increase, rather it had gone down during the present Government's tenure. He said that there had been a record production of foodgrains during the year 2000. The Cabinet had taken a decision that State Governments could also make procurement by opening as many centres as they wished. The Government had also introduced the Farmers Credit Card Scheme to meet the farmers' need for credit. The Government had also introduced the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme to solve the storage problem of farmers.

Replying to the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that the agriculture sector deserved immediate and urgent attention.

The Motion was negatived.

*Discussion under Rule 193 regarding loss of lives and property due to floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country:* Initiating the discussion on 30 November 2000, Shri Somnath Chatterjee of Communist Party of India (M) said that the people of Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu were severely affected by the recent tornado and heavy rains. Unfortunately, such calamities had been occuring with frightening regularity. He requested that Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu must get immediate relief. Just as *ad hoc* assistance was provided to Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, similar assistance should also be provided to West Bengal or any other State that had been affected by a natural calamity of rare severity.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna

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* Others who took part in the discussions were: Sarvashri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Moinul Hassan, Raghunath Jha, Ravi Prakash Verma, Raghuvir Singh Kaushal, P.A. Sangma, Anant Gudhe, Adhir Chowdhary, Nawal Kishore Rai, A. Krishnaswamy, Ajay Chakraborty, Prasanna Acharya, Joachim Baxla, P.S. Gadhavi, Pravin Rashtrapal, Amar Roy Pradhan, Sudarshana E.M. Natchiappan, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Ramdas Athawale, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that timely action from the Central Government and the State Governments was needed to confront the havoc wreeked by natural calamities.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the Government was not serious in addressing the problems faced by the people affected by floods and drought.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) said that twenty-twc districts and fifteen tehsils of Maharashtra were in the grip of a drought and it was difficult to tackle the situation without Central help.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar said that it was not correct to say that the Centre had extended no help and nothing had been done to confront the situation in the wake of the natural calamities. The National Calamity Relief Fund, which was constituted as per the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission, did not exist any more and a new Calamity Contingency Fund was to be constituted. The Government would provide the foodgrain required for the 'Food for Work Programme' in the drought-affected areas. He added that the Union Government would not hesitate to take any step that was possible within its limits and available resources to tackle natural calamities occurring anywhere in the country.

## B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999**: Moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill on 27 November 2000, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and the Minister of Shipping, Shri Arun Jaitley said that in the year 1999, the Government of India had proclaimed an Ordinance which was subsequently accepted by the House as a Bill and several amendments to the Companies Law had been introduced.

It was, however, considered desirable by the Government that some more important changes in the Companies Act, 1956 should be brought out in order to provide immediately certain measures for good corporate governance and for the protection of investors. The Bill provided for more amendments, *viz.* to provide a minimum paid-up capital of Rs. 1 lakh for private companies and Rs. 5 lakh for public companies,

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 December 1999

to reduce the period for disbursing dividend/interim dividend to shareholders from 42 days to 30 days, etc.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri G.M. Banatwalla of Muslim League Kerala State Committee said that the Bill needed a re-look in spite of the fact that it had been cleared by the concerned Standing Committee.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) said that the Government should reconsider the matter relating to declaring the companies as defunct as some companies had developed an attitude that they might be more benefited by drawing incentives from the Government by declaring their companies defunct, instead of keeping them in operation.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of Shipping, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the Bill was motivated by corporate governance in the context of a modern economy, transparency in the functioning of the companies and the protection of investors' interests.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000***:* Moving the Bill for consideration on 15 December 2000, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Maneka Gandhi said that the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 enacted by Parliament to provide for care, protection, development and rehabilitation of neglected or juvenile delinquents had been in force since 2 October 1987. The Government felt that provisions of the Act were not adequately addressing the issues of care and protection of neglected children. She said that the proposed Bill would attempt to make the judicial system more child-friendly and accessible to a juvenile or child or anyone on their behalf, including the police, voluntary organisations, social workers or parents and guardians and would also provide for rehabilitation of the destitute child.

Participating in the discussion***, on 18 December 2000,

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shivraj V. Patil, Kirit Somaiya, Rupchand Pal, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, Dr. Sanjay Paswan and Dr. Nitish Sengupta

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22 November 2000

*** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Bal Krishna Chauhan, Adhi Shankar, Prabhunath Singh, Trilochan Kanungo, Chandra Bhushan Singh, Kharabela Swain, Adhir Chowdhary, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Smt. Sandhya Bauri and Dr.(Smt.) V. Saroja

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that there was no provision to provide protection, education and job to crores of children and yet the Government claimed that they would stop children from begging.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Maneka Gandhi said that the Act actually provided for foster-homing, adoption and many other reasons why children should go into various Homes other than the Juvenile Detention Centres.

The Bill was passed.

*The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill*, 2000:* Moving the Motion for consideration of the Bill on 30 November 2000, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri I.D. Swami, said that under the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950, foreign nationals were required to be in possession of a valid passport and a visa and all authorised travel documents, while travelling in India. An Indian national also was required to be in possession of a valid passport while entering India on an international flight carrier.

The Bill proposed to impose a penalty of one lakh rupees per person on the carrier which would bring passengers without valid travel documents into the country. Several countries like the U.K., U.S.A., Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Australia, etc., also had a similar legislation. The Bill was meant to sort out certain problems that had arisen at the time when people arrived in India without any proper and valid travel documents.

Participating in the discussion**, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh wanted a clarification as to why this Bill was not clubbed with the Passport Bill which had been passed earlier by Parliament.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri I.D. Swami said that there should not be any illegal entry into the country.

The Bill was passed.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 27 November 2000

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ramesh Chennithala, Abdul Hasnat Khan, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Sudarsana E.M. Natchiappan and Pawan Kumar Bansal

## C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, in all, 23,885 notices of questions (19,140 Starred, 4,704 Unstarred and 41 Short Notice Questions) were received.

Out of these, 500 notices were admitted as Starred, 5,455 as Unstarred (including one Short Notice admitted as Unstarred) and 2 as Short Notice Questions.

On 21 and 22 November 2000 and on 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21 and 22 December 2000, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer and, as such, their replies were treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answers to Unstarred Questions, were printed in the official report of those days.

*Daily average of Questions in the List of Questions orally answered:* The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the Session was two. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered was seven on 30 November 2000.

The average number of Questions in the Unstarred List came to 218 as against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 130 questions on 5 December 2000.

*Half-an-Hour Discussion*: In all, 68 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of these, 46 notices were admitted, but only two were discussed.

## D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Shrimati Sirimavo Bandaranaike; Shri C. Subramaniam, a member of Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament and the Third, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha; Shri Ram Dhani Das, a member of Provisional Parliament and the First to the Fourth Lok Sabha; and Sarvashri Nanasahib Bonde, Mandhata Singh, Sitaram Kesri, Gadadhar Saha, J.H. Patel and Sachindralal Singh, all former members.

On 4 December, the Speaker made a reference to the loss of several lives in the tragic train accident on 2 December 2000 when the Amritsar-bound Howrah Mail collided with the derailed bogies of an Assam bound goods train in Sarai Banjara in Fatehgarh District of Punjab.

## RAJYA SABHA

## ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY-FIRST SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Ninty-first Session on 20 November 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 22 December 2000, and was then prorogued by the President the same day.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below :

### A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

*Statement by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding the revision in prices of petroleum products:* Making a Statement in the House on 21 November 2000, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik stated that the Government decided to increase the prices of petroleum products in order to lower down the level of deficit in the oil pool account. A high level of deficit would have affected the liquidity of the oil companies adversely, making it extremely difficult either to import or process crude oil and market products.

As per the Prime Minister's direction to have a re-look on the price front, the Government decided to reduce the retail selling price of PDS Kerosene, domestic LPG, etc. after considering all aspects of the matter. Due to the sharp increase in oil prices in the international market, the Government decided to pass on to the consumers only one-third of the oil-pool deficit by the end of the on-going financial year. The Government, however, recognised that it would not be possible to burden the consumers with a steep increase in prices of petroleum products. It, therefore, decided to absorb a substantial portion of the deficit in its own revenues by reducing the duties of customs and excise.

The Minister said that the Government had suggested to all the Chief Ministers to suitably adjust the sales tax rate in order to neutralize the impact of *ad valorem* sales tax levy on the consumer prices when the basic prices were increased. He added that the increase in prices was necessitated by the high price of oil and petroleum products in the international market, as it would have been impossible for the oil marketing companies to source crude oil and petroleum products in order to meet the domestic demands if such revision was not undertaken.

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* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

The Minister expressed the hope that the crude oil prices would come down to the levels affordable to the country.

*Statement by the Prime Minister on the peace initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir:* On 20 December 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement in the House on the Government's peace initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the situation along the Line of Control (LOC). In his Statement, the Prime Minister said that the decision to not initiate operations against the militants during the holy month of *Ramzan* had shown some positive results. The Government, however, was firm in its resolve to combat violence and to defeat the inhuman and nefarious designs of the terrorists and their supporters. Shri Vajpayee stated that after careful consideration of all aspects, the Government had decided to extend the period of 'no initiation of combat operations' by another month and the position would be reviewed again after the Republic Day, 2001. The Government was also committed to meeting the challenges of terrorism and restoring lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir. While the Government would continue to exercise the maximum restraint in the face of grave provocations, the national interests would never be compromised, he added.

*Government Motion on International Situation:* On 23 November 2000, moving the motion on the international situation for consideration, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the aim of the Government was safeguarding India's economic and territorial integrity, the sovereignty of our constitutional autonomy in a rapidly globalizing world, the autonomy of our decision-making process and thus enhancing the country's strategic space. The development of our international political relationship in a manner that extended India's interests in ever widening concentric circles was another challenge to be met, so that the harnessing of opportunities and in the process maximising the country's political, economic and technological resources could be facilitated. Yet another objective was to ensure a level of overall development of the country and its strength so as to enable India to attain its true role and destiny in international processes and affairs. The creation of favourable conditions in our immediate neighbourhood and in the global environment at large would facilitate India to channelise the largest possible part of its resources to education, health and to vital areas of social infrastructure. The eradication of poverty was the principal moral and economic challenge of our times and that was inextricably linked with the management of international relations.

Participating in the discussion* Shri R. Margabandu of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that while discussing the foreign policy of the country, we had to discuss our national security also.

Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan of Tamil Maanila Congress (M) enquired whether it was the Government's stand that Non-Alignment was no longer relevant in international affairs and was no longer a part of the country's policy.

Replying to the discussion on 24 November 2000, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh made a reference to the present Palestine-Israel situation and the crisis going on in Iraq, and India's efforts for restoration of normalcy in those countries. He said that India is the only country with whom USA had signed a vision statement. A document of strategic partnership had also seen signed with Russia. A security dialogue with China had taken place. The country had always been in touch with the SAARC countries. He further said that a movement of enhanced dialogue, cooperation and economic activities with Myanmar had been initiated. The Asian Highway connecting Myanmar, Mizoram and Tripura via Bangladesh, was also being worked out. The Minister said that elimination of terrorism would be one of the main objectives of the Government. The Government was committed to giving primacy to national prestige, honour and interest, he concluded.

*Motion expressing disagreement with the reported statement of the Prime Minister:* On 18 December 2000, Shri Pranab Mukherjee of Indian National Congress moved a motion for adoption that the House expresses its disagreement with the reported statement of the Prime Minister in which he had given a clean chit to three Ministers of the Union Cabinet, namely, Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Sushree Uma Bharati, against whom the CBI had completed investigations and filed charge sheets (in the Ayodhya case), and through that statement, the Prime Minister had prejudged the issue.

Shri Mukherjee said that the CBI being an investigating agency of the Government of India had to file charge sheets. It was not required that the Prime Minister and Minister-in-charge of CBI had to certify each and every action of the CBI. He enquired from the Prime Minister

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, P.N. Siva, Eduardo Faleiro, C. Ramachandraiah, Dina Nath Mishra, V.V. Raghavan, Sanjay Nirupam, Ravi Shankar Prasad, K.M. Khan, R.S. Gavai, Ven'ble Dhammavirlyo, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta and Dr. Karan Singh

whether there was any distinction in the IPC regarding offences committed by an ordinary person and a privileged person.

Participating in the discussions* the Minister of Rural Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, disagreeing with the motion, said that the issue had to be resolved either by mutual consultation or through a judgment of the court.

Supporting the motion, Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai of Communist Party of India (M) said that the Prime Minister's statement could have very serious adverse consequences for the democratic polity of the country.

Opposing the motion, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, said that the matter being *sub judice* could not be discussed as per the rules of the House.

Supporting the motion, Shri J. Chitharanjan of Communist Party of India said that it was for the Court to decide whether the concerned Ministers were innocent or not.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan of Tamil Maanila Congress (M) said that people were greatly agitated by the Prime Minister's statement that building the temple was a national aspiration, and with that one statement the Prime Minister had destroyed the faith that the people had in him.

Shri C. Ramachandraiah of Telugu Desam Party felt that the Prime Minister's statement was uncalled for and to that the Ministers and party leaders should talk with restraint.

Intervening in the debate on 19 December 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the Ayodhya issue was not a new one and courts had been taking up the issue since 1992. He felt that the controversy should be put to an end and a decision should be left to the Court.

Replying to the debate on 19 December 2000, Shri Pranab Mukherjee wanted a categorical assurance from the Prime Minister that the Government would abide by the verdict of the Court.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Kapil Sibal, K.M. Saifullah, Suresh Pachouri, P.N. Siva, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Sanjay Nirupam, Nilotpal Basu, M.P. Abdussamad Samadani, Ram Jethmalani, Manoj Bhattacharya, Gandhi Azad, Cho. S. Ramaswamy, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Mohd. Azam Khan, Mirza Abdul Rashid, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary and Dr. C. Narayana Reddy

The Motion was adopted.

*LTTE activities in the country and action taken by Government in regard thereto:* On 30 November 2000, Shri Pranab Mukherjee of Indian National Congress called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that though the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had been declared as an unlawful association in 1992, it continued to indulge in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. A decision was taken by the Central Government to declare LTTE as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, with effect from 14 May 2000 for a further period of two years. In order to curb infiltration and smuggling by the LTTE activists, naval detachments and Coast Guard units had been set up in vulnerable areas. Coordination meetings of the Central and State agencies were also being convened by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister said that nobody would be allowed to play havoc with the unity and sovereignty of the country. The main problem was cross-border terrorism. No party or organization which subscribed to terrorism, would be spared and LTTE being such an organization, the ban against them would continue.

*Failure of the Public Distribution System and the remedial measures initiated by the Government in regard thereto :* On 21 December 2000, Shri Nilotpal Basu of Communist Party of India (M) called the attention of the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar said that the Ninth Plan Document envisaged the need to protect the poor from the impact of rising prices of food grains, through a subsidized Public Distribution System (PDS). The Plan document also emphasized the need for confining the subsidies to the families Below the Poverty Line (BPL), and reducing and eventually eliminating them for those families Above the Poverty Line (APL).

The Minister said that the PDS was operated under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. The Central Government was responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers

through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rested with State Governments/UT Administrations. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under the PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner, a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) had been drawn up and circulated to States/ Union Territories for adoption. Believing that truly democratic institutions could better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government had also advised the State Governments to involve substantially more Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the PDS, especially at the FPS level, as a measure of social audit.

The Minister stated that the Government had held discussions with State Governments under the aegis of the Advisory Council on Foodgrains Management and Public Distribution during January-February, 2000 wherein issues relating to better targeting, rationalization of prices, effective monitoring system as well as other related issues in the PDS had been deliberated upon at length. The Ministry had also written to the State Governments/UT Administrations to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against the erring FPS owners under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

With a view to monitoring the PDS effectively and for the speedy exchange of information, a software package had been developed for the State and District levels. The Food and Civil Supplies Departments of most of the State Governments had a direct connectivity with the Central Government through the National Informatics Centre (NIC) network. Information relating to certain parameters like the number of BPL families, ration cards issued/cancelled, allocation and lifting of the PDS items, etc. was required to be sent by the State Governments on a monthly as well as on a yearly basis to the Central Government in the prescribed proforma.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister said that the Government was trying to provide double the quantity of foodgrains to the 33 crore people of the country living 'Below Poverty Line'. Under the 'Food for Work' Programme, the State Governments could also start the Green India Programme formulated by the Planning Commission for large-scale plantations in the country. The Ninth Five-Year Plan was approved in the National Development Council (NDC) and three points— allocation of food grains had to be doubled; issue price would be fifty per cent of the economic cost for the people Below Poverty Line; and that the affluent people were to be excluded gradually from the PDS– were accepted. The Government had taken major decisions such as to

associate the Panchayat as a social audit of the PDS and to provide subsidy on the basis of the quantity actually sold through the FPS under the PDS and not on the basis of the quantity lifted from the FCI godowns. The Government also had decided to frame a new Foodgrains Policy to meet the emerging challenges and circumstances, he concluded.

*Dumping of Chinese goods in Indian market and its adverse effect on the Indian economy:* On 22 December 2000, Shri Sanjay Nirupam of Shiv Sena called the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Omar Abdullah stated that as per the principles of GATT, trade among member countries was conducted on the basis of the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment principle. Though China was not a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India and China had accorded the MFN status to each other as part of a bilateral agreement. Thus, consequent upon the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), imports from China had become free.

A perusal of import data showed that there had not been any surge of imports on an overall basis as a consequence of the removal of QRs. Out of total imports of Rs.3224 crore from China during April-September, 2000, the value of electronic goods was only Rs.515 crore whereas the domestic production of electronic goods in India was of the order of Rs. 30,000 crore.

The Designated Authority appointed by the Government conducts anti-dumping investigations in India under the relevant sections of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1955. In our country, anti-dumping investigations are undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority with *prime facie* evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. The Authority had already imposed anti-dumping duties to the tune of Rs. 68 crore.

To safeguard the interests of the domestic industry, a notification had also been issued prescribing quality standards for 131 products and mandatory compliance with the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977 on imports, as applicable on domestic products. The Government was fully alive to the situation and was taking every possible step to prevent dumping of goods into the Indian market and to ensure that the imports did not enjoy any unfair advantage over domestically produced goods.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister said that China's entry into the WTO would ensure that all the non-WTO compatible subsidies which were being given would be phased out by China. The Government was well aware of the problems that were faced with regard to imports, in regard to smuggling and dumping. He assured the House that the Government would not lag behind in curbing the problem and appropriate steps would be taken to address the issue.

*Short Duration Discussion on shifting of industries from residential areas of Delhi:* Initiating a Short Duration Discussion* on 22 November 2000, Dr. Karan Singh said that it was not possible to address the issue of shifting of industrial units from the residential areas in the capital without making amendments in the Master Plan. The full cooperation of the Ministry of Urban Development, the Delhi Government, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (M.C.D.) and the multiple agencies in Delhi was also necessary.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam demanded that the issue must be dealt with apolitically. It was a grave issue which could only be solved through coordination between the Union Government and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. He added that merely closing down the units would not solve the problem, rather such action would lead to a deterioration in the law and order situation.

Shri R. Margabandu of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that the Minister, in his statement had neither mentioned about the number of polluting industries nor the steps that had been taken to relocate such industries. The Government should take a balanced approach to relocate the units and the Supreme Court's order should be complied with by the industries to combat pollution.

Shri Satish Pradhan of Shiv Sena said that the Supreme Court was forced to take such a decision as the Government of Delhi was unable to convince the apex Court about the action taken by the Committee constituted to deal with the problem.

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* The Short Duration Discussion followed the Statement made by the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation on the subject

** Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Narendra Mohan, Jibon Roy, C. Ramachandraiah, Kapil Sibal, H.K. Javare Gowda, Lajpat Rai, Nagendra Nath Ojha, R.S. Gavai, Gandhi Azad, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Dr. L. M Singhvi, Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Shrimati Ambika Soni and Shrimati Shabana Azmi

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Shri Jagmohan said that people held a wrong view of the Master Plan of Delhi and relocation of industries would not be done without a plan. He affirmed that the Master Plan could only be amended on valid grounds and in the public interest. He said that a planned development of Delhi needed to be ensured. The household industries would be redefined in terms of the Master Plan, keeping in view the recommendations made by the Jagdish Sagar Committee. He assured that the labour would not suffer any loss, rather it would be benefited as 15 per cent land would be earmarked for it. The labourers would also be provided 15,000 plots in the resettlement colony and an amount of Rs. 6 crore had been allocated for water, electricity and other amenities in the land so allotted.

*Short Duration Discussion on the plight of farmers in the country:* Initiating a Short Duration Discussion on 27 November 2000, Shri Janeshwar Mishra of Samajwadi Party said that though 70 to 80 per cent of the country's population depends on agriculture, the farmers were suffering the most. The farmers of every State and region were in a pitiable condition because of the import policy and other policies of the Government. They were forced to sell their produce at prices lower than the procurement prices fixed by the Government. Collective efforts of all the parties could help ameliorate the condition of the farmers.

Participating in the debate*, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that a fresh look at the pricing policy and at the system of procurement was needed as these were the root causes of the problem faced by the farmers. The Government should act immediately and implement the Report prepared by the Reserve Bank of India earlier in 2000 to revitalize the co-operative system. More emphasis was needed on the production of pulses, floriculture, sericulture and all other related activities that would add to the resilience of the farmers. There was also a need for a broad-based national plan for the development of animal husbandry in the country.

Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai of Communist Party of India (M) said that a new world market with regard to agricultural products had emerged and India had to compete with heavily subsidized products of the

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Vikram Verma, Suresh Pachouri, Rumandla Ramachandraiah, Sangh Priya Gautam, K. Rahman Khan, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Lalit Bhai Mehta, Gandhi Azad, D.P. Yadav, S. Peter Alphonse, N.K. Premachandran, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata and Shrimati Vanga Geetha

developed countries. Productivity needed to be increased at par with the world level if the interests of the agricultural workers were to be protected, he added.

Shri J. Chitharanjan of Communist Party of India urged the Government to pass a comprehensive legislation for the benefit of the agricultural workers.

Shri Satish Pradhan of Shiv Sena said that some immediate action needed to be taken by the Government so that the plight of the farmers could be improved.

Shri R. Margabandu of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that the basic requirements of the farming community were not being attended to by the Government. He urged the Government to take notice of the sad plight of the farmers and to do something concrete to ameliorate it.

Replying to the discussion on 28 November 2000, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Nitish Kumar said that separate programmes were being chalked out in consultation with State Governments to achieve a growth rate of more than four per cent in the field of agriculture. Under the Kisan Credit Scheme, 74 lakh credit cards had been given to farmers. A Rashtriya Krishi Beema Yojana was also now available. The Rashtriya Credit Beema Yojana, as a pilot project, would be introduced with the Panchayat as the base unit. A Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme had also been introduced so that the capacity of cold-storages could be enhanced. Approval had also been accorded to the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding for augmenting the Integrated Dairy Development Project.

In conclusion, the Minister said that at the WTO, it would be demanded that the developed countries should reduce their domestic subsidy and also withdraw export subsidy so that a level playing field could be created which, in turn, would enhance our export and benefit the farmers.

## B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000* :* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 30 November 2000, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the Bill incorporated about 40 amendments suggested by the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee. Accordingly, a minimum share capital

* The Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha was laid on the Table on 28 November, 2000

had been provided for both private and public limited companies by a specific amendment. Various market activities of the companies were proposed to be transferred to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Minister added that most of the amendments relating to investors' protection, adding transparency and maintaining higher standards of corporate governance, which were internationally accepted standards today, had been sought to be introduced through the Bill.

Replying to the points* raised by members, the Minister said that all corporate issues would be taken up and referred to a Company Law Tribunal which would deal with the entire gamut of the issues concerned.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

*The Central Road Fund Bill, 2000*** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 December 2000, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri said that the main objective of the Bill was to give statutory status to the Central Road Fund. The Fund was meant for the development and maintenance of national highways, other State roads and rural roads. The Fund, being non-lapsable, would go directly to the Consolidated Fund and would be distributed in the decided ratio among the States. The distribution of cess had been fixed in the Bill and it could not be misused for any other purpose.

Replying to the debate***, the Minister said that proposals from the States for the development and improvement of the State Highways as well as major district roads had been called for and the work was being monitored. The Planning Commission had allotted Rs. 2,500 crore for rural roads.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000****: Moving the motion for consideration of the

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* Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri K. Rahman Khan, C. Ramachandraiah, Ka.Ra. Subbian, Vedprakash P. Goyal, Md. Salim, Ranganath Misra, B.J. Panda and Ram Nath Kovind

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 5 December, 2000

*** Those who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri S.B. Chavan, Anantray Devshanker Dave, Bratin Sengupta, V.P. Duraisamy, H.K. Javare Gowda, Moolchand Meena, V.V. Raghavan, Sanjay Nirupam, Rumandla Ramachandraiah, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Sardar Balwinder Singh Bhunder and Dr. M.N. Das

**** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 18 December, 2000.

Bill on 20 December 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri EV *alias* Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, said that the salient features of the Bill were to increase the capital of the NABARD from Rs. 500 crore to Rs.5,000 crore and the number of representatives of the State Governments in the Board of Directors; to vest NABARD with sufficient flexibility in the matter of mobilization of resources; to float Bonds with or without Government guarantee; and to enable NABARD to grant loans to the State Governments and set up subsidiaries as and when required.

Replying to the debate*, the Minister said that the Bill had been brought, among other things, for granting loan to the needy. By expanding the infrastructure, unemployment could be minimised and income could be increased. The Government wanted the uplift of the agriculture sector which would be beneficial for the farmers. In almost all the districts, a District Development Officer had been appointed for monitoring the infrastructural activities of NABARD. For infrastructure of Information Technology, NABARD had been providing loan. Priority was given to watershed projects and rural roads development. Efforts were being made by the NABARD for providing direct benefit of foreign loans to the farmers.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000***:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 December 2000, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi said that the Bill aimed at making the judicial system more child friendly and accessible to a juvenile child or anyone on their behalf, including the police, voluntary organisations, social workers or parents and guardians throughout the country. It also sought to provide for rehabilitation of the destitute child. She said that the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 needed amendments as it was not in conformity with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Bill would ensure speedy disposal of cases. Special juvenile police units were proposed to be created. The enactment of the Bill would lead to better care and protection of children.

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* Those who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Suresh Pachouri, Sangh Priya Gautam, A.Vijaya Raghavan, Moolchand Meena, Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy, Ka. Ra. Subbian, Balkavi Bairagi, Gopalsinh G.Solanki, R.Margabandu and Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 18 December, 2000

Intervening in the debate*, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley said that it was a legislation with a social purpose, having emphasis on abandoned, neglected and orphaned children in the country.

Replying to the debate, on 20 December 2000, the Minister said that all offences against children had been made cognizable under the provisions of the Bill which would also provide for rehabilitation of juveniles as an option.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and Clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

## C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 9,054 notices of Questions (8,297 Starred and 757 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 498 Questions were admitted as Starred and 3,759 as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 1,943. No Short Notice Question was received during the Session.

*Daily average of Questions :* Each List of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions except for 7 and 8 December 2000, which contained 19 Questions each.

The average number of Questions orally answered was 2.2 per sitting. The maximum number of Questions answered orally on a particular day was five on 14 and 20 December 2000 and the minimum number of Questions answered orally was one on 6 and 12 December 2000.

On the first three days of the Session, *i.e.* on 20, 21 and 22 November 2000, the list of Unstarred Questions contained 102, 117 and 136 Questions respectively, and on the rest of the days it contained 155 Questions each.

*Half-an-Hour Discussion :* Eight notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, but none was admitted.

## D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Shrimati Sirimavo Bandaranaike; member of the Constituent Assembly and former Union Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam; sitting member, Chaudhary Chunni Lal; and Sarvashri Sitaram Kesri, Gurudev Gupta, Arun Prakash Chatterjee, Syed Abdul Malik, Prof. Shantilal Kothari and Shrimati Bedavati Buragohain, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Ranganath Misra, Fali S. Nariman, C.P. Thirunavukkarasu, H.K. Javare Gowda, N.Thalavai Sundaram, Gandhi Azad, Ram Jethmalani, R. Margabandu, Prof. (Shrimati) Bharati Ray, Shrimati Vanga Geetha, Shrimati Saroj Dubey and Shrimati Bimba Raikar

## STATE LEGISLATURES

### CHHATTISGARH VIDHAN SABHA*

The First Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha commenced its First Session on 14 December 2000 and was adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2000. There were four sittings in all.

*Address by the Governor:* The Governor of Chhattisgarh, Shri Dinesh Nandan Sahai addressed the inaugural Session on 15 December 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address, which was moved by Shri Ganesh Shankar Bajpai and seconded by Shri Domendra Bhendiya, was discussed and adopted by the House.

*Election of Speaker:* On 14 December 2000, Shri Rajendra Prasad Shukla, Indian National Congress, was elected unanimously as the Speaker of the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha.

### DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 21 November 2000, was adjourned on 29 November 2000. The House again met for one more day on 11 December 2000 and was subsequently adjourned *sine die*.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, the following Bills were introduced in the House and later passed by the House: (i) The Delhi Prisons Bill, 2000; (ii) The Delhi Electricity Reforms Bill, 2000; (iii) The Delhi Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Delhi Common Effluent Treatment Plants Bill, 2000; (v) The Delhi Industries (Enlistment and Planning) Bill, 2000; and (vi) The Delhi Plastic Bags (Manufacture, Sale and Usage) and Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Bill, 2000.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY***

The Ninth Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Tenth Session on 21 December 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 29 December 2000. Later, the House was prorogued on 1 January 2001. There were five sittings in all.

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* Material contributed by the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat
*** Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

*Legislative business:* During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Himachal Pradesh Public Moneys (Recovery of Dues) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Himachal Pradesh Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (v) The Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of two former members of the Legislative Assembly. Obituary references were also made on those who lost their lives in the tragic truck accident on 20 December 2000 near Salooni in Chamba District of the State.

## MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, which commenced on 27 November 2000, was prorogued on 15 December 2000. The House was later prorogued. There were fifteen sittings in all.

*Legislative business:* During the Session the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panachayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Maharashtra Tax on Sale of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (v) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2000; (vi) The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Minister's Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and the Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (vii) The Bombay Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (viii) The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ix) The Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (x) The Maharashtra Water Conservation Corporation Bill, 2000; (xi) The Maharashtra University of Health Science (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (xii) The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension and Duration) Bill, 2000; (xiii) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary)

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

Appropriation Bill, 2000; and (xiv) The Bombay Entertainment Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

*Financial business:* During the Session, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 2000-2001. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands were held on 5 December 2000. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2000 was also passed on 5 December 2000.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. C. Subramaniam, former Minister, Shri Shripatrao Shankarrao Bondre, former members of the Assembly, Sarvashri Namdeorao Yadavrao Patil, Tulshiramji Rupnaji Kale, Sudhakar Ramchandra Savalakhe, Shankar Aba Govari, Bhagwan Budhaji Kandare, Mahadeo Somaji Kesarkar, Vithal Nathu alias V.N. Patil, Arjunrao Avdhut Wankhede, Dinkarrao Vithalrao Mudrale and Narayanrao Bajirao Patil-Gudsurkar; and the renowned freedom fighter Dr. Usha Mehta.

## MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Seventh Manipur Legislative Assembly met for one day on 1 December 2000 for its Third Session. The House was adjourned *sine die* the same day.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former members of the Legislative Assembly, Sarvashri K. Shyam Singh; K. Leirijao Singh; Dr. L. Bhagyachandra Singh; and Smt. R.T. Shining.

## MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Sixth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly met for two days on 15 December and 19 December 2000 for its Tenth Session. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2000.

*Financial business:* On 15 December 2000, the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1999-2000 and the Finance Accounts for the year 1999-2000 were presented to the House. The House also passed the Contingency Fund of Meghalaya (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were

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* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat

made on the passing away of Union Minister, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam; former President of the Indian National Congress, Shri Sitaram Kesri; the First Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri S.L. Singha; and the former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri J.H. Patel.

## ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Orissa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Third Session on 29 November 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 16 December 2000. The House was prorogued on 4 July 2001. There were fourteen sittings in all.

*Legislative business:* During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Orissa Panchayat Samiti (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Orissa Zilla Parishad (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Orissa Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Orissa Gram Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (v) The Orissa Education (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

*Financial business:* On 29 November 2000, the Supplementary Budget was presented in the House. The Appropriation Bill on the Supplementary Budget was passed on 7 December 2000. During the Session, three Demands for Grants on the Budget were also discussed and made.

*Obituary references:* During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of former Minister, Shri Harishchandra Baxipatra, and former member, Shri Ghasiram Sandil. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of Shri Blacius Alexender Kujar and Shri S.K. Jena of the Indian Army.

* Material contributed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

# 11

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## APPENDIX I

# STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | PERIOD OF THE SESSION | 20 November to 22 December 2000 |
| 2. | NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD | 25 |
| 3. | TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS | 112 Hours and 45 minutes |
| 4. | NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD | 3 |
| 5. | GOVERNMENT BILLS | |
| | (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 18 |
| | (ii) Introduced | 20 |
| | (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha | 6 |
| | (iv) Reported by Joint Committee | 1 |
| | (v) Reported by Standing Committee | 4 |
| | (vi) Referred to Departmentally-related Standing Committee by Speaker/Chairman, Rajya Sabha | 3 |
| | (vii) Discussed | 17 |
| | (viii) Passed | 17 |
| | (ix) Pending at the end of the Session | 27 |
| 6. | PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS | |
| | (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 144 |
| | (ii) Introduced | 6 |
| | (iii) Discussed | 2 |
| | (iv) Withdrawn | 1 |
| | (v) Part-discussed | 1 |
| | (vi) Removed from the Register of pending bills | 5 |
| | (vii) Pending at the end of the Session | 149 |
| 7. | NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 184 | |
| | (i) Notices received | 483 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 87 |
| | (iii) Discussed | 1 (Negatived) |
| 8. | NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377 | 188 |
| 9. | NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR | 190 Matters by 245 members |
| 10. | NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance) | |
| | (i) Notices received | 181 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 2 |
| | (iii) Discussions held | 2 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11. | NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention of Matters of Urgent Public Importance) | 5 (4 raised and 1 Laid on the Table) |
| 12. | STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 | 8 |
| 13. | STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS | |
| | (i) Notices received | 17 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 4 |
| | (iii) Moved | 4 |
| | (iv) Adopted | 1 |
| | (v) Negatived | 2 |
| | (vi) Withdrawn | 1 |
| 14. | GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS | |
| | (i) Notices received | 4 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 4 |
| | (iii) Moved | 1 |
| | (iv) Adopted | 1 |
| 15. | PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS | |
| | (i) Received | 5 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 5 |
| | (iii) Discussed | 3 |
| | (iv) Adopted | Nil |
| | (v) Negatived | Nil |
| | (vi) Withdrawn | 2 |
| | (vii) Part-discussed | 1 |
| 16. | GOVERNMENT MOTIONS | |
| | (i) Notices received | 4 |
| | (ii) Admitted | 3 |
| | (iii) Discussed | Nil |
| 17. | NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS | |
| | (i) Total No. of Notices received | 155 |
| | (ii) Brought before the House | 25 |
| | (iii) Admitted | 1 |
| | (iv) Discussed | 1 (Negatived) |
| | (v) Barred in view of Adjournment Motion admitted on the subject | 4 |
| | (vi) Consent withheld by Speaker outside the House | 49 |
| 18. | TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION | 18,659 |
| 19. | MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED | 1,497 on 20.12.2000 |
| 20. | TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED | |
| | (i) Starred | 500 |
| | (ii) Unstarred | 5,445 |

(iii) Short Notice Questions — 2 (Replies Laid on the Table)

(iv) Half-an-hour discussions — 2

21. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 5

22. PETITIONS PRESENTED — 3

23. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AND THE DATE ON WHICH SWORN IN — 1 (Smt. Rama Pilot, 20.11.2000)

24. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i) Notices received — 10

(ii) Brought before the House — Nil

(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker — Nil

(iv) Observation made by Speaker — Nil

25. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Sl. No. | Name of the Committee | No. of sittings held during the period 1 July to 30 September 2000 | No. of Reports presented |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| i) | Business Advisory Committee | 4 | 4 |
| ii) | Committee on Absence of Members | 2 | 2 |
| iii) | Committee on Public Undertakings | 1 | (5 Action Taken Statements) |
| iv) | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | 2 | — |
| v) | Committee on Petitions | 7 | 2 |
| vi) | Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions | 3 | 3 |
| vii) | Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes | 4 | — |
| viii) | Committee on Privileges | — | — |
| ix) | Committee on Government Assurances | — | — |
| x) | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | — | — |
| xi) | Estimates Committee | 2 | — |
| xii) | General Purposes Committee | 1 | — |
| xiii) | House Committee | — | — |
| | a) Accommodation Sub-Committee | — | — |
| | b) Sub-Committee on Amenities | — | — |
| xiv) | Public Accounts Committee | — | — |
| xv) | Railway Convention Committee | 3 | 1<br>5 (Action Taken Statements) |
| xvi) | Rules Committee | — | — |
| | **JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES** | | |
| i) | Joint Committee on Offices of Profit | 1 | — |
| ii) | Joint Committee on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill,1999 | 8 | 1 |

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| i) | Committee on Agriculture | — | — |
| ii) | Committee on Communications | — | — |
| iii) | Committee on Defence | 1 | 2 |
| iv) | Committee on Energy | 7 | — |
| v) | Committee on External Affairs | 8 | 1 |
| vi) | Committee on Finance | 5 | — |
| vii) | Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution | — | — |
| viii) | Committee on Labour and Welfare | — | — |
| ix) | Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals | 3 | 1 |
| x) | Committee on Railways | — | — |
| xi) | Committee on Urban and Rural Development | 3 | 1 |
| xii) | Committee on the Empowerment of Women | — | — |
| xiii) | Committee on Information Technology | 8 | — |

## APPENDIX II

# STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | PERIOD OF THE SESSION | 20 November to 22 December 2000 |
| 2. | NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD | 25 |
| 3. | TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTINGS HOURS | 84 Hours and 10 minutes |
| 4. | NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD | 1 |
| 5. | GOVERNMENT BILLS | |
| | (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 40 |
| | (ii) Introduced | 8 |
| | (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha | 11 |
| | (iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment | Nil |
| | (v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha | Nil |
| | (vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha | Nil |
| | (vii) Referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committees | 5 |
| | (viii) Reported by Select Committee | Nil |
| | (ix) Reported by Joint Committee | 1 |
| | (x) Reported by the Departmentally-related Standing Committees | 4 |
| | (xi) Discussed | 16 |
| | (xii) Passed | 16* |
| | (xiii) Withdrawn | Nil |
| | (xiv) Negatived | Nil |
| | (xv) Part-discussed | Nil |
| | (xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation | 3 |
| | (xvii) Discussion postponed | Nil |
| | (xviii) Pending at the end of the Session | 43 |

* Including 3 Money Bills returned by the Rajya Sabha with any recommendation.

| | |
|---|---|
| 6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS | |
| (i) Pending at the commencement of the Session | 101 |
| (ii) Introduced | 28 |
| (iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha | Nil |
| (iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table | Nil |
| (v) Reported by Joint Committee | Nil |
| (vi) Discussed | 2 |
| (vii) Withdrawn | 1 |
| (viii) Passed | Nil |
| (ix) Negatived | 1 |
| (x) Circulated for eliciting opinion | Nil |
| (xi) Part-discussed | 1 |
| (xii) Discussion postponed | Nil |
| (xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived | Nil |
| (xiv) Referred to Select Committee | Nil |
| (xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill | Nil |
| (xvi) Pending at the end of the Session | 127 |
| 7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance) | |
| (i) Notices received | 106 |
| (ii) Admitted | 27 (on 3 subjects) |
| (iii) Discussions held | 1 |
| NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance) | |
| 8. STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTERS | 4 |
| 9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD | — |
| 10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) Notices received | 10 |
| (ii) Admitted | 10 (on 4 subjects) |
| (iii) Moved | 3 |
| (iv) Adopted | 1 |
| (v) Negatived | 2 |
| (vi) Withdrawn | Nil |
| 11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) Notices received | 5 |
| (ii) Admitted | 5 |
| (iii) Moved | 1 |
| (iv) Adopted | 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS | |
| (i) Received | 8 |
| (ii) Admitted | 8 |
| (iii) Discussed | 2 |
| (iv) Withdrawn | 2 |
| (v) Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) Adopted | Nil |
| (vii) Part-discussed | Nil |
| (viii) Discussion postponed | Nil |
| 13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS | |
| (i) Notices received | 4 |
| (ii) Admitted | 4 |
| (iii) Moved | 1 |
| (iv) Adopted | 1 |
| (v) Part-discussed | Nil |
| 14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS | |
| (i) Received | 197 |
| (ii) Admitted | 180 |
| (iii) Moved | 1 |
| (iv) Adopted | 1 |
| (v) Part-discussed | Nil |
| (vi) Negatived | Nil |
| (vii) Withdrawn | Nil |
| 15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULES | |
| (i) Received | 1 |
| (ii) Admitted | 1 |
| (iii) Moved | Nil |
| (iv) Adopted | Nil |
| (v) Negatived | Nil |
| (vi) Withdrawn | Nil |
| (vii) Part-discussed | Nil |
| (viii) Lapsed | 1 |
| 16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY | 1 (one) |
| Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the question of jurisdictional overlap between Parliamentary Committee, constituted on 6 December 2000 | |
| 17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED | 1,058 |
| 18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS | 2,103 |
| 19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED | 97 (on 19.12.2000) |

20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE — 230 (on 24.11.2000)

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i) Starred — 498

(ii) Unstarred — 3,759

(iii) Short-Notice Questions — Nil

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — Nil

23. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 4

24. PETITIONS PRESENTED — Nil

25. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

| Sl No. | Name of the Committee | No. of meetings held during the period October – December 2000 | No. of Reports presented |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| i) | Business Advisory Committee | 4 | Nil |
| ii) | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | 3 | 2 |
| iii) | Committee on Petitions | 2 | Nil |
| iv) | Committee on Privileges | 1 | 3 |
| v) | Committee on Rules | Nil | Nil |
| vi) | Committee on Government Assurances | 1 | 2 |
| vii) | Committee on Papers Laid on the Table | 2 | 1 |
| viii) | General Purposes Committee | Nil | Nil |
| ix) | House Committee | 1 | Nil |
| DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES: | | | |
| x) | Commerce | 5 | Nil |
| xi) | Home Affairs | 6 | Nil |
| xii) | Human Resource Development | 2 | Nil |
| xiii) | Industry | 7 | 2 |
| xiv) | Science & Technology, Environment & Forests | 5 | 4 |
| xv) | Transport and Tourism | 3 | 2 |
| OTHER COMMITTEES | | | |
| xvi) | Ethics Committee | Nil | Nil |
| xvii) | Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha | Nil | Nil |
| xviii) | Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme | 3 | Nil |
| xix) | Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards | Nil | Nil |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| xx) Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the question of jurisdictional overlap between Parliamentary Committees | Nil | Nil |

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

| S.No. | Name of Members | Party | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Shri Palden Tsering Gyamtso | Sikkim Democratic Front | 20.11.2000 |

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

| S.No. | Name | Sitting member/ Ex-member/Dignitary |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Shrimati Sirimavo Bhandaranaike | Former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka |
| 2. | Shri C. Subramaniam | Former Union Minister & Member of the Constituent Assembly |
| 3. | Shri Sitaram Kesri | Ex-member |
| 4. | Prof. Shantilal Kothari | -do- |
| 5. | Shri Gurudev Gupta | -do- |
| 6. | Shri Arun Prakash Chatterjee | -do- |
| 7. | Shri Syed Abdul Malik | -do- |
| 8. | Shrimati Bedavati Buragohain | -do- |
| 9. | Chaudhary Chunni Lal | Sitting member |

## APPENDIX III

## STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

| Legislature | Duration | Sittings | Govt. Bills | Private Bills | Starred Questions | Unstarred Questions | Short Notice Questions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| STATES | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Assam L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.C. | 9.11.2000 to 10.11.2000 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Delhi L.A. Ist Part | 21.11.2000 to 29.11.2000 | 7 | 6(6) | — | 140(a) | 400 | — |
| IInd Part | 11.12.2000 to 11.12.2000 | 1 | | | | | |
| Goa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gujarat L.A. | — | — | — | — | — | 126(90) | — |
| Haryana L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. | 21.12.2000 to 29.12.2000 | 5 | 4(4) | — | 217(136) | 51(38) | 3(2)b |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Karnataka L.A. | 23.10.2000 to 25.11.2000 | 20 | 19(16) | — | 2,206(210) | (1,645) | — |
| Karnataka L.C. | 23.10.2000 to 25.11.2000 | 20 | 16(20) | 1 | (210) | (1,017) | — |
| Kerala L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Madhya Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Manipur L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mizoram L.A. | 9.10.2000 to 10.10.2000 | 2 | 3(2) | — | 60(54) | 18(17) | — |
| Nagaland L.A.* | — | — | — | — | — | — | - |
| Orissa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Punjab L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rajasthan L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sikkim L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu L.A. | 6.11.2000 to 13.11.2000 | 7 | 27(25) | — | 1,077(203) | (628) | (1) |
| Tripura L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. | 19.10.2000 to 24.10.2000 | 4 | 6(10) | — | 748(699) | 168(161) | 32(28) |
| West Bengal L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| UNION TERRITORIES | | | | | | | |
| Pondicherry L.A. | 6.12.2000 to 7.12.2000 | 2 | 4(4) | — | — | — | — |

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report
**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes: a) Total notices received-718

b) Admitted as Starred Questions

## APPENDIX III (Contd.)

## COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

| | Business Advisory Committee | Committee on Govt. Assurances | Committee on Petitions | Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions | Committee on Privileges | Committee on Public Undertakings | Committee on Subordinate Legislation | Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST | Estimates Committee | General Purposes Committee | House/Accommodation Committee | Library Committee | Public Accounts Committee | Rules Committee | Joint Select Committee | Other Committees |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| STATES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Assam L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.C. | 1 | 38 | 11 | 12 | 7 | + | 11 | 19 | + | 11 | 10 | 18 | + | — | — | 65[a] |
| Delhi L.A. | 1(1) | 2 | — | 2(2) | — | 2(1) | — | 2(1) | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 1(1) | — | 2[b] |
| Goa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gujarat L.A. | 1(1) | 6 | — | — | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7)11 | 6 | — | 2 | 1 | 10 | — | — | 12[c] |
| Haryana L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. | 1(1) | — | — | — | 2(1) | 11(7) | — | 12(1) | — | — | 1 | — | 10(14) | 1 | — | 29(12)[d] |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Karnataka L.A. | 3 | 4(1) | 5 | 1(1) | 3 | 6(3) | 5 | 6 | 4 | — | 5 | 4 | 5 | — | — | 18(3)[e] |
| Karnataka L.C. | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2(2) | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| Kerala L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Manipur L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mizoram L.A. | 1(1) | 4 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | 4(1) | — | — | — | 14(2) | 1(1) | 3 | — |
| Nagaland L.A.* | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Orissa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Punjab L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sikkim L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu L.A. | 1 | 18(1) | 4 | — | — | 15(5) | 3(4) | — | 5 | — | 16 | — | 24(25) | — | — | 5(8)(f) |
| Tripura L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Bengal L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| **UNION TERRITORY** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pondicherry L.A. | — | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 28 | — | — | — | 27 | — | — | — |

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

\+ Joint Committee (information not received from the Bihar Lagislative Assembly

Notes:

(a) Question and Call Atention Committee-28; Nivedan Committee-11; Implementation Committee-18; and Committee on District Board Panchayati Raj-8

(b) Question and Call References Committee -1; and Select Committee on the Delhi Plastic (Manufacture, Sale and Usage) and non-Biodegradable Garbage (Central) Bill, 1999-1

(c) Committee on Panchayati Raj-8; Committee on Absence of Members-2

(d) Agriculture and Horticulture Committee-6(3); PWD and Tourism Committee-6(1); Forest and Excise Committee-6; Education and Finance Committee-4(3); Health and Rural Development Committee-4(1); and Revenue and GAD Committee-3(4)

(e) Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities Committee–5; Committee on Women and Children Welfare-6(2); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7(1)

(f) Paper Laid on the Table-5(8)

## APPENDIX IV

# LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

## 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

| Sl. No. | Title of the Bill | Date of assent by the President |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | The Multimodal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2000 | 5.12.2000 |
| 2. | The Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 2000 | 8.12.2000 |
| 3. | The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment)) Bill, 2000 | 8.12.2000 |
| 4. | The Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Bill, 2000 | 8.12.2000 |
| 5. | The Forfeiture (Repeal) Bill, 2000 | 8.12.2000 |
| 6. | The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2000 | 11.12.2000 |
| 7. | The Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2000 | 11.12.2000 |
| 8. | The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2000 | 11.12.2000 |
| 9. | The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 2000 | 11.12.2000 |
| 10. | The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2000 | 13.12.2000 |
| 11. | The Central Road Fund Bill, 2000 | 27.12.2000 |
| 12. | The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000 | 30.12.2000 |
| 13. | The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2000 | 30.12.2000 |

## APPENDIX V

# LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

## 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

### BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-5) Vidheyak, 2000
2. The Bihar Rajya Shiksha Samiti Vidheyak, 2000
3. The Bihar Viniyog (Adhikai Vyaya 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98), Vidheyak, 2000

### DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Delhi Prison Bill, 2000
2. The Delhi Electricity Reforms Bill, 2000
3. The Delhi Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Delhi Common Effluent Treatment Plant Bill, 2000
5. The Delhi Industries Enlistment and Planning Bill, 2000
6. The Delhi Plastic (Manufacture, Sale and Usage and Non-Biodegradable Garbage Control) Bill, 2000

### HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Municipal (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Himachal Pradesh General Sales Tax (3rd Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2000

### KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Oil Palm (Regulation of Cultivation, Production and Processing) Bill, 2000

*2. The Certain Laws Repealing and Amending Bill, 2000

*3. The Karnataka Repealing and Amending Bill, 2000

4. The Karnataka Koragas (Prohibition of Ajalu Practice) Bill, 2000
5. The Karnataka Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug-Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immortal Traffic Offenders and Slum-Grabbers (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2000

7. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The Karnataka Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Karnataka Entertainment Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Karnataka Irrigation and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
12. The Karnataka Reservation of Appointments of Posts (in the Civil Services of the State for Rural Candidates), Bill, 2000
13. The Karnataka Protection of Interests of Depositors in Financial Establishment Bill, 2000
14. The Karnataka Sales Tax and Excise Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
15. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
16. The Karnataka Control of Organized Crime Bill, 2000

**PONDICHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

*1. The Pondicherry General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Pondicherry) Amendment Bill, 2000
*3. The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Pondicherry) Amendment Bill, 2000
*4. The Salaries and Allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Pondicherry) Amendment Bill, 2000

**TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Tamil Nadu Bhoodan Yogna (Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Tamil General Sales Tax (Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2000
5. The Tamil Nadu Entertainment Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies (Suspension of Operation) Bill, 2000
8. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (Conferment of Permanent Status to Workmen) Amendment Bill, 2000
10. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishment (National and Festival Holidays) Amendment Bill, 2000
11. The Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2000
12. The Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2000
13. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment Bill, 2000

14. The Registration (Tamil Nadu Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
15. The Indian Tolls (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2000
16. The Tamil Nadu Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution) Amendment Bill, 2000
17. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2000
18. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Twelfth Amendment) Bill, 2000
*19. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
20. The Tamil Nadu Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2000
21. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2000
22. The Alagappa University (Amendment) Bill, 2000
23. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2000
24. The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Bill, 2000
25. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2000

**UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The U. P. Viniyog (2000-2001 ka Anupurak) Vidheyak, 2000
2. The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Sanskrit Shiksha Parishad Vidheyak, 2000
3. The U. P. Aamod Aur Pankar (Tritya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
4. The U. P. Vyapar Kar (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000

**UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

1. The Bharatiya Van (Uttar Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
2. The Uttar Pradesh Plastic Aur Anya Jeev Ananshit Koora Kachra (Upyog Aur Nistaran Ka Viniyam) Vidheyak, 2000
3. The Uttar Pradesh Hindu Sarvjanik Dharmik Sanstha (Sampati Apvayye Nivaran) (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2000
4. The Uttar Pradesh Sarkari Samiti (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
5. The Uttar Pradesh Junior High School (Adhyapak Aur Anya Karamcharion ke Vetan Ka Bhugtan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
6. The Uttar Pradesh Chal Chitra (Vineyam) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000

* Bills awaiting Assent

## APPENDIX VI

## ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

| Sl. No. | Subject | Date of Promulgation | Date on which laid Before the House | Date of cessation | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **UNION GOVERNMENT** | | |
| 1. | The Central Road Fund Ordinance, 2000 | 1.10.2000 | 21.11.2000 | 2.4.2001 | Replaced by Legislation |
| | | | **STATE GOVERNMENTS** | | |
| | | | **BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** | | |
| 1. | The Bihar Sinchayi (Sanshodhan) Adyadesh, 2000 | — | — | — | — |
| | | | **DELHI** | | |
| 1. | The Delhi Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 9.8.2000 | 22.11.2000 | 27.11.2000 | — |
| 2. | The Delhi Electricity Reforms Ordinance, 2000 | 28.10.2000 | 22.11.2000 | 23.11.2000 | — |
| | | | **GUJARAT** | | |
| 1. | The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 25.10.2000 | — | — | — |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | The Gujarat Panchayat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 4.11.2000 | — | — | — |
| 3. | The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Gujarat Amendment) Amending Ordinance, 2000 | 6.11.2000 | — | — | — |
| 4. | The Gujarat Regulation of unauthorised Development Ordinance, 2000 | 22.11.2000 | — | — | — |
| 5. | The Gujarat Gas (Regulation of Transmission, Supply and Distribution) Ordinance, 2000 | 19.12.2000 | — | — | — |
| 6. | The Gujarat Development Corporation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 26.12.2000 | — | — | — |
| | | **TAMIL NADU** | | | |
| 1. | The Indian Tolls (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 3.10.2000 | 6.11.2000 | — | Replaced by Legislation |

## UTTAR PRADESH

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | The U.P. Krishiutpadan Mandi Samitis (Alpkalik Vyavastha) (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2000 | 27.12.2000 | 20.3.2001 | — | — |
| 2. | The Indian Stamp (U.P. Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 29.12.2000 | 20.3.2001 | — | Replaced by Legislation |
| 3. | The U.P. Secondary Education Service Selection Board (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 | 30.12.2000 | 20.3.2001 | — | — |

## APPENDIX VII

### A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 8 MARCH 2001)

| Sl. No. | Seats | INC | AIADMK | SP | CPI(M) | CPI | CPI(ML) (L) | RJD | RSP | BSP | AIM EIM | MUL | KCM | RLD | KC | SJP(R) | AIFB | TDP | BJP | JD(U) | SAD | BJD | AITC | JD (Samata) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 42 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 29 | 7 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Assam | 14 | 10 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar | 54 | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 22 | 5 | — | — | — | 10 |
| Goa | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gujarat | 26 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 20 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Haryana | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Himachal Pradesh | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Karnataka | 28 | 18 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kerala | 20 | 8 | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Madhya Pradesh | 40 | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 29 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra | 48 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Manipur | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meghalaya | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mizoram | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nagaland | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Orissa | 21 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | — | — | 10 | — | — |
| Punjab | 13 | 8 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Rajasthan | 25 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 16 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sikkim | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu | 39 | 2 | 10 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tripura | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh | 85 | 9 | — | 26* | — | — | — | — | — | 14 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | 29 | — | — | — | — | — |
| West Bengal | 42 | 3 | — | — | 21 | 2 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 9 | — |
| Nominated | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| **UNION TERRITORIES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chandigarh | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Daman and Diu | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| The NCT of Delhi | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lakshadweep | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pondicherry | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 545 | 112 | 10 | 26* | 33 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 181 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 12 |

* Includes one member (Kunwar Sarv Raj Singh) expelled from Samajwadi Party and sitting seperately w.e.f. 6.2.2001

## APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

### A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 8 MARCH 2001)

| Sl. No. | SS | SAD(M) | INLD | JD(S) | DMK | MGRADMK | LISP | PMK | MDMK | HVC | BBM | J&KNC | SDF | NCP | MSCP | PWP | ABLTC | IND | TOTAL | VACANCIES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 42 | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Assam | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | -- | 1 | 14 | — |
| Bihar | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 53 | 1 |
| Goa | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Gujarat | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 25 | 1 |
| Haryana | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — |
| Himachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 6 | — |
| Karnataka | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 28 | — |
| Kerala | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 20 | — |
| Madhya Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 40 | — |
| Maharashtra | 15 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 6 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 48 | — |
| Manipur | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Meghalaya | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Mizoram | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Nagaland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | -- | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Orissa | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 21 | |
| Punjab | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | — |
| Rajasthan | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 25 | — |
| Sikkim | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | -- | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Tamil Nadu | — | — | — | — | 12 | 1 | — | 5 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 38 | 1 |
| Tripura | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Uttar Pradesh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 84 | 1 |
| West Bengal | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 41 | 1 |
| **UNION TERRITORIES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Chandigarh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Daman and Diu | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| The NCT of Delhi | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 | — |
| Lakshadweep | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Pondicherry | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Total | 15 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 540 | 5 |

**Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:**

BJP Bharatiya Janata Party; INC–Indian National Congress; CPI(M)–Communist Party of India (Marxist); TDP–Telugu Desam Party; SP–Samajwadi Party; SS–Shiv Sena; BSP–Bahujan Samaj Party; DMK–Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; JD(Samata)–Janata Dal (Samata); AIADMK–All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; BJD–Biju Janata Dal; AITC–All India Trinamool Congress; NCP–Nationalist Congress Party; RJD–Rashtriya Janata Dal; JD(U)–Janata Dal (United); INLD–Indian National Lok Dal; PMK–Pattali Makkal Katchi; MDMK–Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; J&K NC–Jammu and Kashmir National Conference; LJSP–Lok Jan Shakti Party; RSP–Revolutionary Socialist Party; CPI–Community Party of India; ABLTC–Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Congress; AIFB–All India Forward Bloc; MUL–Muslim League Kerala State Committee; RLD–Rashtriya Lok Dal; SAD–Shiromani Akali Dal; AIMEIM–All India Majlis-e-ittehadul Muslimeen; BBM–Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh; CPI(ML)–Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) Liberation; HVC–Himachal Vikas Congress; JD(S)–Janata Dal (Secular); KC-Kerala Congress; KCM–Kerala Congress (M); MSCP–Manipur State Congress Party; MGRADMK–MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; PWP–Peasants and Workers Party of India; SAD(M)–Shiromani Akali Dal (SS Mann); SDF–Sikkim Democratic Front; SJP(R)–Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); IND–Independents

## B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
## (AS ON 24 JANUARY 2001)

| Sl. No. | State/Union Territories | Seats | INC | BJP | CPI(M) | TDP | RJD | DMK | SP | JD | CPI | AIA-DMK | Shiv Sena | SAD | Others | Indep-endents | Total | Vacan-cies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| | **STATES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 18 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 13 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 18 | — |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| 3. | Assam | 7 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3(a) | — | 7 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 16 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 9 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 1(b) | — | 16 | — |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 5 | 3 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — |
| 6. | Goa | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | | 3 | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11 | — |
| 8. | Haryana | 5 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3(c) | — | 5 | — |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1(d) | — | 3 | — |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3(e) | — | 4 | — |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 6 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2(m) | — | 6 | — |
| 12. | Karnataka | 12 | 5 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | — |
| 13. | Kerala | 9 | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 4(f) | — | 9 | — |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 11 | 7 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11 | — |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 19 | 5 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | 2(g) | 3 | 19 | — |
| 16. | Manipur | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 18. | Mizoram | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 19. | Nagaland | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 20. | Orissa | 10 | 6 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3(h) | — | 10 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Punjab | 7 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | 6 | 1 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 10 | 6 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | — |
| 23. | Sikkim | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1(i) | — | 1 | — |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 18 | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | 3(j) | 2 | 18 | — |
| 25. | Tripura | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 3 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 31 | 2 | 11 | — | — | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 5(k) | 4 | 30 | 1 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 16 | 1 | — | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3(l) | 2 | 16 | — |
| **UNION TERRITORIES** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29. | Delhi | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 30. | Pondicherry | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 31. | Nominated | 12 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11 | 12 | — |
| | TOTAL | 245 | 57 | 46 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 23 | 243 | 2 |

(a) Asom Gana Parishad–2; Autonomous State Demand Committee–1
(b) Samata Party–1
(c) Indian National Lok Dal–2; Haryana Vikas Party–1
(d) Himachal Vikas Congress–1
(e) J&K National Congress–3
(f) Muslim League–2; Kerala Congress–1; Revolutionary Socialist Party–1
(g) Republican Party of India–1; Nationalist Congress Party–1
(h) Biju Janata Dal–3
(i) Sikkim Democratic Front–1
(j) Tamil Maanila Congress Moopanar–3
(k) Bahujan Samaj Party–4; Akhil Bhartiya Loktantrik Congress–1
(l) All India Forward Bloc–1; Revolutionary Socialist Party–2
(m) Jharkhand Mukti Moreha–2

## C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

| State/Union territories | Seats | Cong.(I) | Janata Dal | BJP | CPI(M) | CPI | Others Parties | Ind. | Total | Vacancies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Andhra Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Arunachal Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Assam L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bihar L.C. (1.1.2001) | 57 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 30[a] | 6 | 57 | — |
| Delhi L.A. (1.1.2001) | 70 | 53 | 1 | 14 | — | — | — | 2 | 69● | — |
| Goa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gujarat L.A. (1.1.2001) | 182 | 56 | 4+ | 117 | — | — | — | 4 | 181 | 1 |
| Haryana L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.1.2001) | 68 | 28 | — | 35 | — | — | 4[b] | 1 | 67● | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Jammu & Kashmir L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Karnataka L.A. | 225 | 135 | — | 44 | — | — | 25[c] | 19 | 223● | 1 |
| Karnataka L.C. (15.2.2001) | 75 | 26 | 5 | 14 | — | — | 26[d] | 3 | 74 | 1 |
| Kerala L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Madhya Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

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| Maharashtra L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Maharashtra L.C.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Manipur L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meghalaya L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mizoram L.A. (1.1.2001) | 40 | 6 | — | — | — | — | 33(e) | 1 | 40 | — |
| Nagaland L.A.* | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Orissa L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Punjab L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Rajasthan L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sikkim L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Tamil Nadu L.A. | 235 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 8 | 215(f) | 1 | 228● | 6 |
| Tripura L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.1.2001) | 100 | 3 | — | 45 | 1 | — | 42(g) | 9 | 100 | — |
| West Bengal L.A.** | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| **UNION TERRITORY** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pondicherry L.A. (1.1.2001) | 33 | 9 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 20(h) | 1 | 31● | 1 |

●Excluding Speaker

* Information received from the State/Union territories Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territories

\+ Two members of this Party have intimated the Speaker of their Joining the Congress Party and one member has intimated about his resignation from the Janata Dal. In this regard, the petitions filed under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution of India, are pending

a) Rashtriya Janata Dal-26; Janata Dal (U)-1; Samata Party-1; Lok Janshakti Party-1; and unattached-1

b) Himachal Vikas Congress-2; and unattached-2

c) Janata Dal (U)–19; Janata Dal (S)-4; A.I.A.D.M.K.-1; and Nominated-1

d) Janata Dal (S)-16; Janata Dal (U)-8; and Separate Group of Janata Dal-2

e) MNF-21; and MPC-12

f) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-162; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)-37; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-4; Indian National League-3; Pattali Makkal Katchi-3; All India Forward Bloc-1; Tamil Maanila National League-2; Puthiya Tamilagam-1; Unattached-1; and Nominated-1

g) Samajwadi Party-22; Bhaujan Samaj Party-9; Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress-2; and Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-9

h) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-10*; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)-6**; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-2; Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and A.I.A.D.M.K. (Thiru)-1

* Including two Nominated Members who had Stated that they belong to Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

** Including one Nominated Member who had Stated that he belongs to Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)